1490.b.8.

A

REVIEW

OF THE

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

OF THE

Iriſh Houſe of Commons.

BY FALKLAND.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD
BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS.

M,DCC,LXXXIX.

15
59
JUL

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

CHARLES JAMES FOX,

WHOSE ELOQUENCE
ALIKE COMMANDING AND PERSUASIVE,
WHOSE POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE
AT ONCE PROFOUND AND EXTENSIVE,
AND
WHOSE MANNERS
EQUALLY AMIABLE AND ESTIMABLE,
ENSURE
ADMIRATION, REVERENCE, AND AFFECTION,
THE FOLLOWING

REVIEW

OF THE

IRISH HOUSE OF COMMONS,

IS WITH THE
PROFOUNDEST RESPECT AND SINCEREST
ATTACHMENT,

DEDICATED,

BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT AND
DEVOTED SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE very favourable reception which the following Characters met with in the courſe of their publication in the *Dublin Evening Poſt*, has induced the Author to republiſh them in this more permanent form; and he hopes that, by a careful reviſal and ſome few corrections, he has rendered them leſs unworthy of the public approbation. As that approbation generouſly beſtowed was an incentive to him to proceed in his undertaking, ſo its remembrance will prove his conſolation againſt the cenſures of ignorance and the cavils of malignity.

REVIEW

OF THE

Iriſh Houſe of Commons.

AS the preſent Parliament is approaching near to its concluſion, it may not be uſeleſs to take a retroſpective view of the characters, conduct, and abilities of the more diſtinguiſhed members who compoſe it. Such a review, if tolerably executed, may afford ſufficient hints to the Electors at large, where they ſhould again place their confidence, and where former confidence has been miſplaced or betrayed. Since an intelligent, independent, and virtuous Legiſlature is one of the greateſt bleſſings which the Nation can enjoy, and ſince ſuch a Legiſlature can only be procured by a deliberate and well-weighed choice of the worthy and the wiſe, every prudent Elector, when applied to for his vote, will much more maturely regard antece-

dent conduct than preſent profeſſions; and to enable him to decide with ſome accuracy on that ſubject, the preſent undertaking is intended. Not preſuming to dictate to his judgment, but to aſſiſt its exerciſe: not to direct his determination, but to aid its rectitude. Addicted to no party but that of truth and juſtice, our impartiality we can anſwer for: of the execution of our ſcheme, the public will judge.

Right Hon. DENIS DALY.

THE ſupport of men of natural weight and conſequence, of family and property in the country muſt always be an object of prime regard with every prudent adminiſtration, as well from the direct aid which they impart as from the collateral influence which they beſtow. Even when they are devoid of ſhining abilities and ſplendid talents it is wiſe to conciliate and politic to procure their co-operation; as the appearance of being backed by the great landed intereſt and the reſpectable gentry of the nation ſecures to government more than an ideal ſtrength, invigorating its meaſures and enforcing their efficacy. But when the rare combination of birth and fortune, of genius and induſtry,

of

of eloquence and ſagacity are united in the ſame perſon, it were the extreme of folly not to ſeek for his countenance, it were the heighth of madneſs not to allure his aſſiſtance: for ſuch a man is a tower of ſtrength to his friends, a bulwark againſt the rudeſt aſſaults of opponents, and a center of refuge to the People, where they deem their deareſt rights ſafe from violation. In the hour of ſecurity he is an ornament, in the day of danger a protection. If not ſubſervient as the profligate, he is not unſteady as the venal; if not ſubmiſſive to each mandate of Miniſters, he can enlighten their ignorance and guide their inexperience; if not the ready defender of miſconduct he is the invincible advocate of truth and equity.

Mr. Daly, whoſe abilities are confeſſedly of the firſt rank, has no reaſon to bluſh for the part he has acted in life. Early eminent in the ranks of oppoſition, the brilliancy of his talents reflected luſtre on the cauſe which he eſpouſed; and ſince his acceptance of a place he has not obſcured the brightneſs of his fame by indiſcriminate ſervility and unqualified proſtitution. Temperate, candid, and liberal, he has commanded reverence when he impreſſed not conviction; and has endeavoured to preſerve the peace, when he laboured not for the independence, of the community.

His voice is admirably well-toned, clear, and

ſtrong, harmonious in modulation throughout its whole compaſs, and that compaſs extenſive; and equally adapted to command with energy or to ſoothe with ſoftneſs. No part of its merit is loſt by injudicious management, for he diſplays all its excellencies with the correcteſt care and juſteſt art, preſerving it diſtinctly audible in its loweſt depreſſion and grateful to the ear in its higheſt elevation. His language is elegant, nervous, ſpirited and glowing, abounding in vigour and variety; now copious and ſplendid, and enlivened with appoſite imagery, and again plain, conciſe and acute, as the occaſion demands. Seemingly more anxious to convince than to entertain, he produces not from his ſtores the glittering tinſel of wordy ſpeakers, but the ſterling ore of manly ſenſe: and his delivery adds much grace to his expreſſions, as it is lively without rapidity and accurate without affectation.

His action unites force with dignity, and is well ſuited to the weight of the matter he delivers, which is invariably well choſen, important, intereſting, and ſkilfully aranged. This indeed is naturally to be expected from him, for endowed by nature with ſtrong natural abilities, perſevering diligence and induſtry have added to them all the ornaments of polite and claſſical literature. He ſeems to poſſeſs a very competent

tent knowledge of the politics of Europe, with information of which kind he has obliged the houſe on occaſions when the intereſts of this country might be affected by them: and his talents for buſineſs are deemed not inconſiderable, but he has hitherto enjoyed few opportunities of exerting them.

In reaſoning he is peculiarly powerful, being argumentative, pointed, acute, and energetic, ſometimes diffuſed but never redundant, and occaſionally vehement, indignant, and impetuous; applying all the talents of his mind and all the powers of his genius to perſuade and to convince, and alike impreſſing his audience by the animation of his manner and the concluſiveneſs of his deductions. Seldom, it is true, he ariſes in the houſe, viſibly marking a conſciouſneſs of his own worth, and that abilities like his ſhould not be called forth on every little occaſion: but when he does ariſe, he is ever heard with the profoundeſt attention, as he is juſtly conſidered as one of the ableſt orators in the Iriſh ſenate.

Though a placeman he is too high ſpirited to be the drudge of a miniſter, and ſeldom, if ever, engages in the odious taſk, ſo diſgraceful to talents, of palliating miſconduct and defending profuſion. With a ſilent vote he may ſupport

the

the meaſures of adminiſtration; but he has hitherto, with a dignity not often imitated, reſtrained his tongue from the avowed proſtitution of maintaining what can not be ſupported.

Right Hon. WILLIAM BROWNLOW.

IT has been often and juſtly remarked that the moſt brilliant characters in ſociety are by no means the moſt reſpectable; that they glitter but to deceive, and ſhine but to miſlead: that abilities and eloquence and genius are frequently accompanied by ſuch meanneſs of mind and profligacy of principle as depreciate their worth and tarniſh their luſtre, whilſt integrity of ſoul and rectitude of intention exalt the humbleſt talents and dignify the weakeſt exertions. The fluent Orator, if deſtitute of more ſterling merit, is admired whilſt he ſpeaks, but his admiration is as tranſient as his words are fleeting: whilſt the honeſt and upright ſenator is never thought on without reverence nor remembered without regard. The one charms the ear, the other captivates the heart; the one amuſes the imagination, the other ſecures the ſuffrage of the underſtanding. Few men have been more ſucceſsful in attaining the latter of theſe than Mr. Brown-

low,

low, whoſe reſpectable character is well known, and generally eſteemed; but no where more than in his own county, where no perſon would be ſo abſurd as to think of voting againſt him. Of ample fortune and liberal birth, theſe form his ſmalleſt praiſe, whoſe foundations are much deeper laid, and are not to be ſhaken by the ſtormieſt blaſts of calumny or envy.

As an orator he has indeed few claims to public diſtinction, for his voice is thin, ſharp, and diſagreeably toned, alike deficient in ſtrength and melody; and his manner is neither pleaſing nor conciliating. His matter, tho' far ſuperior to either, and ſometimes ſolid and ſometimes new, is not yet of the very firſt impreſſion: it forcibly ſtrikes but does not always convince. His language, though ſparingly ornamented, is yet neither low nor mean, but poſſeſſes a degree of eaſy and unſtudied elegance, rather the effect of polite intercourſe than of careful choice: and his arguments are eaſy and natural, congenial to common apprehenſions, and free from all ſophiſtical involution.

Spirited indeed he is, and ſometimes bold even to daring; but though the fire of his elocution is ſtrong, it is more the ſteadineſs than the ſplendour of its blaze that we have to admire. If he does not animate his audience by the qualities of ardour and of energy, he

yet

yet ever obtains their complacent attention by the dignity of his conduct, by the decision of his actions, and by his unblemished moral reputation: but what gives an irresistible weight to every word he utters is the acknowledged independence of his mind, and the undeviating rectitude of his parliamentary conduct. No tool of party, and no slave of state, he is the real representative of an independent county, supporting its rights with steadiness, and ecchoing its sentiments with integrity. Dashing defiance in the teeth of the minions of power, he stands firm as on a rock: and in a certain perilous situation,* shewed himself undismayed by their opposition, and unterrified by their threats. Whilst others may be admired he is to be respected: whilst others are applauded for abilities and eloquence, he is to be reverenced for worth and patriot virtue.

Right Hon. JOHN BERESFORD.

IT is not surprising to see men low and contemptible in their origin, and raised to station and

* Whilst the Volunteer Convention was sitting at the Rotunda Mr. Brownlow was the man who, at their desire, seconded Mr. Flood's motion for leave to bring in a bill for a parliamentary reform; which was opposed with uncommon violence by the servants of the crown, and with such threats of intimidation as ought never to be heard in a legislative assembly. By him they *were* heard and despised.

and emolument by a fortuitous concurrence of accidents or unreſerved political proſtitution, labouring with aſſiduous diligence in the ſervice of every Miniſter, and waſting the dregs of their life in ſapping the foundations of a Conſtitution which they have neither hearts to love nor abilities to comprehend. The meanneſs of their ſouls caſts ſome ſhadow of apology over the baſeneſs of their conduct, and their ſtupidity may be pleaded in bar of their profligacy: for even the ſolar beam affects not the benighted eye-ball, and nothing, ſave ſelf-intereſt, operates on hardened obduracy. But if a ſimilarity of behaviour is obſervable in thoſe of exalted birth, and who ſhould poſſeſs elevated minds, in thoſe whoſe education has been liberal and intercourſe poliſhed, aſtoniſhment and ſhame at once oppreſs us; aſtoniſhment at ſuch a flagrant perverſion of moral conduct, and ſhame at ſuch a deplorable inſtance of human weakneſs. We can neither view them with indulgence nor regard them with pity: they may be beacons to deter, but can not prove lights to direct our courſe.

Mr. Beresford is a gentleman who by very extenſive family connections has been raiſed to places of great emolument; and he has with much attention created and procured various employments for his family. His ſupport therefore of the moſt obnoxious meaſures planned by the late adminiſtration

miniſtration was prompt and willing; and his warm defence of the famous twenty commercial propoſitions evinced his ready ſubſerviency to the dictates of adminiſtration. Their gratitude was to have been munificent but the reward was intercepted; and for once the golden bait eſcaped from his graſp.*

As a public ſpeaker his voice is clear, diſtinct, and ſufficiently ſtrong; not ill-toned, harſh, or diſſonant, but equally diſtant from ſtriking harmony of modulation: yet his management of it is really judicious, as he conſtantly preſerves to it that evenneſs of tenour adapted to his elocution, and never allows it to deviate into any faulty extreme. His language is neither marked by elegance nor ornament, ſimple but not pure, and plain but not correct, and at times both confuſed and obſcure; and his ſpeeches are moſtly diſtinguiſhed by an uniform flow of unimpaſſioned declamation that never can arouſe, though it may ſometimes inſtruct. Of the character of an orator he, indeed, appears not emulous, and the ſubjects on which he generally chuſes to expatiate, the regulations and details of

* There was an intention, during the Duke of Rutland's adminiſtration, of increaſing the ſalary of firſt commiſſioner of the revenue (which office Mr. Beresford holds) by the addition of 1000l. a year, and of adding 500l. a year to each of the other commiſſioners. But this ſcheme was rendered abortive by the Duke's death.

of the cuſtoms and exciſe, admit not, it muſt be owned, of any elevated ſtrains of eloquence or excurſive flights of imagination.

Whilſt a practiſing lawyer, his original deſtination in life, he was deemed not deficient in good profeſſional abilities: and in truth a good deal of the habits and manners of the Four-Courts he ſtill retains. In argument, with much legal ſubtlety and ſophiſticated art, he puzzles when he can not convince, and perplexes when he can not elucidate: whilſt his replies to his opponents are conſtantly tart and acrimonious, as if he would compenſate by aſperity of reply for deficiency of reaſoning; and his conſtructions of law whenever advanced are more artful than ſatisfactory. A better ſervant of adminiſtration than of the crown (for in his ſchemes of revenue we think him often miſtaken, and they have proved peculiarly unſucceſsful) he labours in office with indefatigable aſſiduity. The only character of which he ſeems ambitious is that of being a man of buſineſs: and a man of buſineſs he undoubtedly is.

Right Hon. JOHN O'NEILL.

THE difference between vulgar and ingenuous popularity is as remarkable in its effects

as

as in its cauſe; for as the former originates from a ſupple flattery of the paſſions and prejudices of the populace, it is as fleeting in its duration as reprehenſible in its riſe, and can only be preſerved by ſuch means as produced it: whilſt the latter ſpringing from a generous and ardent concern for the proſperity of the ſtate, and purſuing that object even at the riſk of the people's praiſe, not always diſcerning or juſt, is permanent as pure, and perennial as its ſource. Founded on the immutable principles of truth and virtue, by the boiſterous blaſt of popular frenzy it may indeed be ſhaken but can not be overturned; by faſcinating deluſion it may for a time be diminiſhed but can not be deſtroyed: for it ever grows with the growth and matures with the progreſs of revolving years,

Of the truth of this Mr. O'Neill affords an illuſtrious inſtance, whoſe zealous and ſteady attachment to the conſtitution both in church and ſtate, evinced by the moſt unqueſtionable proofs, early pointed him out as an object of general eſteem: but his manly and ſpirited ſupport of the former on a noted occaſion was, by the deſigning machinations of the worthleſs, converted into a means of obſcuring the luſtre of his reputation. The eclipſe, 'tis true, was but temporary; for no magic arts could raiſe a cloud over his fame thick enough to be conſtant: and ever ſince his popularity

popularity has been as great as his merit is conſpicuous. That both may be, if poſſible, ſtill greater is our ſincere and ardent wiſh; as he is one of the moſt reſpectable characters this country can boaſt of, and one of thoſe few who need but to be known in order to be beloved.

He ſeldom ſpeaks in the houſe, but whenever he does he acquits himſelf in the handſomeſt manner. His voice, ſtrong, well toned, and harmonious, is ſomewhat hurt by a ſlight tendency to a liſp, which occaſionally gives a mincingneſs to his pronunciation, in all other reſpects correct and proper: and his management of it is directed by the ſtricteſt judgment. It is always diſtinctly audible, and never offenſively loud. His ſtyle of oratory is plain and ſimple, yet poliſhed and copious, more neat than elegant, and more nervous than ornamented; not glowing with imagery but animated by ſentiment: and manly ſenſe, the genuine effuſion of a good underſtanding, gives deciſive weight to all he utters; whilſt the undeviating, unſuſpected integrity of his heart ſheds a luſtre on his language which no ſelection of mere words can poſſibly beſtow.

His action is both graceful and forcible, adding weight and energy to his expreſſions: and his manner is firm and determined, fearleſs as innocence, and bold as virtue. His arguments

guments are ſtrong, conciſe, and pointed; not winding through mazes of reaſoning intricate and perplexing, but directly attaining their object by the ſhorteſt and moſt obvious path. Invariably addicted to the intereſts of Ireland, and acting as the independent repreſentative of a free people, he alike ſhuns the meanneſs of factious oppoſition and the ſervile ſubſerviency of the hireling tribe. Though abſolutely maſter of a borough he left the inhabitants to the uninfluenced choice of their repreſentatives; and by ſo doing, more than by a thouſand ſpeeches, proved his real love of liberty. It is the idol of his affections, not the ſtalking-horſe of his ambition.

Right Hon. JOHN FITZGIBBON, Attorney General.

WHEN acknowledged profeſſional abilities are raiſed to exalted ſtations, when rank, and dignity, and preeminence are the conſequences of induſtry, learning and talents, ſuch ſtations and ſuch preeminence, however early acquired, excite neither ſurpriſe nor murmurs. The predelictions of the public anticipate the determinations of goyernment, and the office ſeems not ſo much to be ſought by the man as the

the man by the office. This is more particularly the caſe in this country, where ſometimes great family intereſt, and ſometimes a fortuitous concurrence of ſtrange accidents, has elevated ignorance and incapacity to high rank at the bar; where confidence but more ſtrikingly expoſed the former, and diffidence procured little indulgence for the latter.

Mr. Fitzgibbon indeed, tho' a very young man, had by a ſagacity equally penetrating and acute, by an acquaintance with the law alike ſolid and enlarged, and by an unalterable ſteadineſs in the objects of his purſuit, united the general ſuffrage in his favour as the fitteſt perſon to fill his preſent ſtation long before his appointment to it: and the ſame qualities, undeviatingly exerted ſince, have given a ſtrong ſanction to the public opinion. They have undoubtedly procured himſelf great legal fame and reputation, and have in ſome inſtances been ſerviceable to the community.

The very active and decided part which this gentleman has taken in all the meaſures of government, ſince he became Attorney General, has rendered him an object of great parliamentary conſideration, and his abilities and induſtry fully qualify him to ſupport the rank he holds. His voice, though clear and diſtinct, is neither commanding nor melodious; for it has a ſhrillneſs

neſs of tone often unpleaſing, and ſometimes diſcordant. The graces of action he ſeems not to have ſtudied, or to deſpiſe; and in his mode of ſpeaking he has a great deal too much of the mannerift; as it is ſtrongly marked with the leading features of the elocution of the law courts. His language is plain, correct, and copious, appearing rather the natural dreſs of his thoughts, and the effect of conſtant habit, than the product of ſtudy and premeditation—not illuminated with ſplendid epithets and glowing terms, not adorned with ſublime expreſſions or harmonious periods, but even and level, and when moſt warm, rather violent than elevated. His matter is uncommonly good, always well choſen, ſolid and weighty as the ſubject will admit, and arranged ſo as to make the deepeſt impreſſion.

In all law queſtions he appears to great advantage, as his legal knowledge is both extenſive and profound, and his induſtry indefatigable. Indeed no part of this gentleman's character is more extraordinary than the laborioufneſs of his application; for he is apparently a man of pleaſure, and yet the multitude of buſineſs he tranſacts in the Four Courts, and the engagements of his parliamentary duty ſeem ſufficient to afford full employment to the unremitted attention of an active life. But from his

is practice of the principle of never being idle, for when not engaged in buſineſs he is buſy in pleaſure, he is enabled to effect more than common men can well conceive to be poſſible. His argument, tho' now and then tarniſhed by legal quibble and legal ſophiſtry, is is general ſtrong, condenſed and manly, ſeldom deviating into extrinſic circumſtances, and never ſkulking from a queſtion or wantonly deſerting it.

This hardihood of debate is accompanied with a quickneſs and ſmartneſs, (or what ſome would call a pertneſs and petulence) of manner highly offenſive, and which ſurely ſhould be corrected. Although poſſeſſed of a great private fortune, not leſs than 7000l. a year, and acquiring by his profeſſion nearly as much more, he is yet the uniform ſupporter of every meaſure of every adminiſtration. He has undoubtedly underſtanding enough to ſee what is right, and we ſhould hope integrity enough to purſue it. The fact is inexplicable.

ARTHUR WOLFE, Eſq. Solicitor General.

FROM his high character at the bar and a conceived opinion of his abilities, he was introduced into the Houſe of Commons under the auſpices of Lord Tyrone, and without much

parliamentary exhibition, was ſoon raiſed to the office of Solicitor General. He is deemed a ſound and ſkilful lawyer, but as a public ſpeaker, his rank is but low.

His voice is ſtrong and deep, but neither mellow nor well toned, though free from harſhneſs. Action he has none, ſave the ſwing-ſwang of the bar, and his manner is commonly cold and inanimate, as if he was rather pleading than debating, as if rather haranguing a court on a queſtion of property than diſcuſſing a political ſubject of magnitude and importance. Yet with all this apparent phlegm, he is extremely irritable, and eaſily thrown off his guard. His language is none of the beſt; for though ſimple, it is not correct; and it flows with more of the even tenour of dull declamation, than of the ſprightly ebullitions of fancy and genius. His matter is commonly much ſuperior to his manner, and his reaſoning is cloſe, well combined, and as concluſive as his ſubject will in general allow.—More a ſenſible ſpeaker than an orator, more adapted to inform the underſtanding than to influence the paſſions; from his general character he is heard with reſpect; and even in the infamous buſineſs of attachments, his law argument, weak as it was, but little diminiſhed his reputation. From his connexions as much as from his ſituation, he

is

is an invariable partizan of every court-meaſure, and a determined, though not a very powerful, advocate of adminiſtration.

JOHN PHILPOT CURRAN, Eſq.

THIS eminent barriſter made his firſt appearance in Parliament, in the train of Mr. Longfield; but a difference of opinion ariſing between them with regard to the merits of the preſent adminiſtration, he with ſpirit and honour, freed himſelf from the trammels wherein he was expected to move, by purchaſing a ſeat for a friend of Mr. Longfield's, who was content to ſubmit implicitly to his direction.

Mr. Curran is not much indebted to nature for external appearance, as his perſon is rather mean and his countenance by no means expreſſive. His voice is clear and diſtinct, and, though perhaps ſomewhat too ſhrill, is not diſagreeably toned; but, his pronunciation is diſgraced by a vulgar provincial accent. His action, though not graceful, is frequently forcible, and generally expreſſive; and his language is correct, copious, elegant, and nervous.——It is a rich and inexhauſtible ſtream of animated diction, abounding in luminous phraſes, poetical alluſions, and the livelieſt turns of fancy. His fancy, indeed,

ſeems unlimited, and his imagination has a fertility, a compaſs, an extent, uncommon indeed.

In wit he abounds, and that not far fetched, or laborouſly ſought, but eaſy and familar; flaſhing with reiterated ſtrokes, and almoſt with the rapidity of elemental fire, its coruſcations gild the gloom of debate, and enlighten without conſuming the ſubject. His arguments are peculiarly ſtrong and convincing, riſing gradually and with apparent facility one from the other, and terminating in the moſt cogent and powerful; whilſt his reaſonings have more of logical preciſion, than of the looſeneſs of popular debate. Not metaphyſical, but acute; not ſyllogiſtical, but ſtrictly regular. His mind being amply ſtored with a variety of uſeful and entertaining knowledge, his matter is always drawn from an abundant ſource, and it is as happily ſelected as it is fully ſupplied. In irony he is eminently ſucceſsful, being ſhrewd, ſarcaſtic, and ſevere; and in ſatire he ſtands unrivalled by any member of the houſe. It is a cauſtic that cauſes the moſt ſtupid to feel, and the moſt inſenſible to wince; it appalls the effrontery of unbluſhing impudence, and ſcares the audacity of public proſtitution. Nor ſtation nor rank can ſhield themſelves from its force, and when ſeemingly contemned, it is known to have been moſt completely wounding.

Mr.

Mr. Curran has uniformly ſupported thoſe meaſures which the public voice has declared conducive to the national proſperity; and his exertions in the debates on the noted twenty propoſitions of odious memory, and on attatchments, gained him great and deſerved honour. May he continue to perſevere in a truly patriotic conduct, and ſtill further entitle himſelf to the confidence of his country!

MICHAEL SMITH, Eſq.

THIS diſtinguiſhed lawyer is member for the borough of Randalſtown, whoſe inhabitants being left to their free choice of a repreſentative by the worthy owner of the borough, Mr. John O'Neill, unanimouſly elected Mr. Smith; and he has fully juſtified their choice, by conſtantly diſcharging his honourable truſt with aſſiduity, ſpirit, and integrity.

Neither his voice nor action qualify him for a public ſpeaker, as the former is deep, drowſy, and monotonical—and the latter ſtiff and awkward. In debating he is cloſe, accurate, and argumentative, indulging no flights of fancy or excurſions of imagination: and his language is adapted to his reaſoning, being

ing plain and unornamentd, but correct. A ſeeming honeſty and ſincerity of intention pervades his ſpeeches, which give them much weight; and as he abounds in information, and is plentifully ſtored with legal knowledge, he is ſeriouſly attended to, particularly on all law and conſtitutional queſtions, by thoſe who wiſh to act from principle, and not from party. But his manner is heavy, unimpaſſioned, and ſleepy—and this ſtrongly counteracts the force of his reaſoning, and the energy of his arguments. Frequently convincing the mind he never warms the heart, and the effect of his ſpeeches is a cold aſſent of the underſtanding, not any vigorous impulſe of the ſoul.

Right Hon. THOMAS CONOLLY.

FROM his large fortune and high family connexions, he is commonly regarded as the head of that reſpectable claſs of men, the country gentlemen: and it is a point of view wherein he evidently takes pride to be conſidered. His abilities, now for a long ſeries of years more addicted to ſporting than public buſineſs, have received no very high degree of poliſh; and his elocution entitles him not to much diſtinction as a public ſpeaker.

Poſſeſſed

Poſſeſſed of a fund of dry humour, he frequently applies it not unhappily; and his arguments, though too generally looſe, deſultory, and ill arranged, often have point, force, and energy. A bluntneſs of manner accompanied with a candid openneſs of heart, ſtrongly marks his ſpeeches—which evidently appear, and are felt by his audience as the plain, unartificial effuſions of an honeſt mind, deeply impreſſed with a full conviction of the truth and juſtice of its ſentiments. Enjoying a good natural underſtanding, it ſupplies him with matter well worth attending to, which (though perhaps not of the very firſt impreſſion) is always ſound and ſolid. Spirited he conſtantly is—often warm, and ſometimes even violent: but that violence was juſtified by the momentous occaſion, and did credit to the integrity of his mind, and the warmth of his feelings. Too elevated to be the tool, and not aiming to be the leader of a party, he acts uniformly from the impulſe of his inclinations; and though ever on good terms with the Chief Governors of this country, he has frequently ſtood foremoſt in the moſt decided oppoſition to their meaſures.

His popularity was once great, which he much diminiſhed, during the viceroyalty of his brother-in-law, the Earl of Buckinghamſhire, by his unguarded motion in the Houſe of Commons,

relative

relative to the Volunteers: but this error he has ſince fully ranſomed by his ſteady ſupport of every good, and oppoſition to every bad public meaſure. In the debates on Mr. Orde's noted commercial propoſitions, he took the lead in a diſtinguiſhed manner, and by his firm, manly, and ſpirited conduct on that occaſion, juſtly entitled himſelf to the grateful thanks of his country.—Much regarded in private life, and commanding (to uſe the modern phraſe) three voices in the houſe, he has both weight and influence.

Right Hon. GEORGE OGLE.

THIS gentleman was long one of the moſt popular characters in the kingdom. Early in life poſſeſſed of a very large fortune, which he ſpent with the utmoſt magnificence, if not profuſion, the independence of his mind was not doubted; and the invariable tenour of his conduct corroborated the moſt ſanguine impreſſions in his favour. Deſpiſing the allurements of a court, every public meaſure of acknowledged utility had his decided ſupport, and his ſpirit was as conſpicuous as his reſolution was inflexible. Lately (from ſome diſarrangement, as it is ſuppoſed, of his family affairs) he thought proper

proper to accept of a place, with the conſent indeed of his conſtituents; and ſince that period he has aided adminiſtration with his vote, though ſeldom with his voice. Like Demoſthenes of old, he has got a ſilver ſquinzy.

Inheriting from nature an elegant perſon and a good underſtanding, the former appears more improved by culture than the latter; as his fund of knowledge ſeems not very abundant, nor his ſources of information copious. His imagination is very lively, and his fancy even poetical; for Mr. Ogle is a poet: but his arguments are commonly more ſhewy than ſolid, and have more ſurface than depth. He never indeed ſpeaks without making two or three ſtrong and pointed obſervations, that materially affect the queſtion in debate; but then theſe are ſo dilated by a heterogeneous mixture with leſs ſterling ore as much diminiſhes their value. His voice is clear, diſtinct, and well toned:—and his action methodized and graceful, and ſometimes forcible. His language, as might be expected from the caſt of his genius, is highly metaphorical, abounding in ſplendid ſuperlatives and figurative diction; whilſt the ſpirit and energy of his manner ſtrictly correſpond to the glowing warmth of his expreſſions. In ſome meaſure a general favourite, he is always heard with attention and

deference,

deference, pleaſing even when he convinces not: and over the only queſtionable part of his conduct affection wiſhes to throw a veil, which nothing but impartiality ſhould induce us to withdraw. As the only happy are the ſelf-approved, may he enjoy that conſolation! The reſt is of little value.

Right Hon. LUKE GARDINER.

THE ſtation of repreſentative for the county of the capital is diſtinguiſhed and eminent. From the rank, fortune, and conſequence of many of the electors, from their minute knowledge of all the proceedings of Parliament, and from their ability (by local ſituation) of immediately making known their opinions with reſpect to them, a more intimate connection ſubſiſts between the member and his conſtituents than is elſewhere generally experienced. Mr. Gardiner has, however, marked his political career by a decided oppoſition to the ſentiments of his electors, and a contemptuous diſregard of their inclinations; and this often in inſtances of ſuch ſmall magnitude as evidently demonſtrated his principle of action.

By no means would we be thought to countenance

nance that Dutch idea, fraught with abſurdity and folly, of a repreſentative's being bound implicitly to obey the directions of his conſtituents, for it is foreign from our conſtitution: but there is certainly a reſpect due to them by men of the greateſt abilities, and ſtill more by thoſe who have no claim to be ranked in the firſt claſs.

Mr. Gardiner's voice is good, clear, ſtrong, and deep, and his action, though perhaps ſomewhat too theatrical, has often both grace and ſtrength. His language is plain, ſimple, and flowing more cool than animated, and though not eminent for correctneſs, always free from vulgarity. His matter is commonly very good, for he is a man of learning, and has taken pains to enrich his mind with the ſtores of ancient and modern literature; and as he ſeems to pay ſuch deference to the Houſe as to prepare his ſpeeches, it is moſtly well arranged. His reaſoning is indeed but feeble, has little energy or force; for he poſſeſſes no great ſtrength of mind or vigour of genius: and his manner is cold and inſipid; not lifeleſs, but unaffecting. He exerted himſelf ſtrenuouſly in procuring an abolition of the Popery laws, and has taken ſome pains, whether ſincerely or not, he beſt knows, to ſerve the manufactures of Ireland. For a long time he has been the devoted ſervant of Adminiſtration, labouring

bouring with inceſſant aſſiduity for the attainment of a Peerage: and has ſhewn himſelf in ſome degree unworthy of the ennobling diſtinction by the very means he takes to acquire it.

Sir LUCIUS O'BRIEN, Bart.

THIS reſpectable Baronet, of one of the oldeſt families in the kingdom, has been long diſtinguiſhed by his attention to the improvement of the trade and manufactures of his country. His knowledge of theſe ſubjects is certainly extenſive, and the information which he furniſhes regarding them judicious and accurate.

As a public ſpeaker (for to oratory, I believe, he pretends not) his rank is very low; as his voice is indifferent, his elocution bad, and his language neither correct nor elegant. Seemingly fond of the familiar ſtyle of ſpeaking, and of the character of facetious and witty, he too frequently deſcends from the dignity of debate to the chit-chat of common converſation; wantoning in pleaſantries, and ſometimes approaching cloſe to the confines of buffoonery. In argument, though his matter is in general good and deſerving of regard, he is often confuſed, and appears as it were puzzled which part to produce firſt: hence, as he wants both the *facundia* and *lucidus*

ordo

ordo of which the poet ſpeaks, the merit of his harangues is much depreciated, and their effect as much diminiſhed. He has at times veered about to moſt points of the political compaſs, but is at preſent ſteadily fixed to the Court quarter, having been appointed in the laſt Adminiſtration to a place of conſiderable emolument.

LAWRENCE PARSONS, Eſq.

THIS gentleman is the eleſt ſon of a Baronet of conſiderable reſpectability, and of great popularity in the county which he repreſents. Educated in the Univerſity of Dublin he early diſtinguiſhed himſelf by regularity of conduct, by a ſedulous attention to literary purſuits, and by a winning affability of deportment that conciliated the affections of all. Thus qualified, the Univerſity elected him, when yet young in life, one of her repreſentatives; and his ſubſequent conduct fully juſtified the propriety of her choice.

His voice is ſtrong, diſtinct, and deep, more adapted to impreſs with force than to captivate with ſweetneſs: and his language ſimple and flowing, though ſeldom figurative, is ever correct. His action is indeed ungraceful, but often forcible; and though poſſeſſing a good perſon, his manner is ſtiff, perhaps awkard: In

rea-

reaſoning, he is cloſe, compact, and argumentative; with more of ſcholaſtic preciſion than form, and with more condenſed ſtrength than outſide ſhew of argument—not eaſily confuſed, not eaſily embarraſſed by the captious objections of petulance or the inſolent interruptions of official importance. His matter is always good, ſolid and weighty; not ſkimmed from the ſurface, but drawn from the depths of his ſubject; not flimſy and frippery, not the tinſel of a ſuperficial declaimer, but the ſterling ore of a well informed ſpeaker. Although, poſſibly, not ſufficiently animated, and too languid in debate, Mr. Parſons has yet energy, and fire, and ſpirit; and on one celebrated occaſion nobly evinced their power by confronting and confounding the daring bully of Adminiſtration; one who had been formerly ſelected, from his ſuppoſed intrepidity, to brave the vengeance, whilſt he betrayed the rights, of the people of England. In all public queſtions Mr. Parſons has uniformly acted with the integrity and honour becoming the repreſentative of ſpirited youth and virtuous age: and has ſecured, what next to the approbation of his own mind muſt be moſt dear to him, the applauſe of genius, of learning, and of virtue.

AR-

ARTHUR BROWNE, Esq.

TO riſe into diſtinction, unaided by the force of family connections, or the intervention of thoſe fortunate incidents which ſometimes exalt the worthleſs, is ever honourable; as it marks the poſſeſſion of ſuperior abilities, and the due application of them to their propereſt ends, the attainment of perſonal merit and the promotion of the public good. This has been Mr. Browne's lot; who by birth an American, tho' of Iriſh extraction, was deprived of the aſſiſtance of powerful relations to countenance his early progreſs, and owed that obligation to the kindneſs of a reverenced and moſt worthy divine*, who from friendſhip to his father was attached to him early, and loved him long. Educated in Trinity College, his diſtinguiſhed learning and excellent conduct procured his election to a fellowſhip there; and, when an attempt was made to convert the univerſity into a family borough, the independent part of the body fixed on him as the fitteſt perſon to ſupport their rights, and ſucceeded in electing him unanimouſly repreſentative for the ſeat of learning, at the commencement of the preſent parliament.

Mr. Browne's voice is clear and diſtinct, but not

* The late Reverend Dr. John Forſayeth, formerly Senior Fellow of Trinity College, and Archdeacon of Cork.

not commanding; always audible, generally well toned, and but ſometimes a little too ſhrill. His language is uncommonly good, choice, correct, and flowing; the effect of ſtudy without ſmelling of the lamp; and duly tempered between the extremes of a glowing poetical phraſeology, and the cold lifeleſſneſs of creeping proſe. His action, though at times ſomewhat marked by profeſſional manner, is moſtly well conſidered, never tranſgreſſing the bounds of decorum, and uniting with force a due portion of grace and elegance. His manner is warm, not violent; ſpirited, not impetuous, and the rapidity of his elocution correſponds to the quickneſs of his conceptions.

In argument he is acute, ſtrong, and forcible, ſeeing at once the ſtrong points of the queſtion, ſeizing them with avidity, and enforcing them with energy; and poſſeſſing all the accuracy of logical reaſoning, without the pedantic affectation of its uſe. From a mind well ſtored with the richeſt products of ancient and modern learning, he invariably draws matter appoſite, copious, and weighty; well ſelected, well arranged, and adapted to compel conviction; forcing its way againſt the obſtinacy of prejudice and the predetermination of party. Repreſenting the ſeat of ſcience, his conduct has done honour to her choice, being liberal, manly and ſpirited; equally adverſe to

the

the ſtrides of authority and to the ſtruggles of licentiouſneſs, and equally friendly to the due equipoiſe of the conſtitution in church and ſtate. In the late debates on tythes, ſo much talked of and ſo little underſtood, he eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf, ſtanding forth the ſupporter of the juſt rights of the clergy, with a ſpirit that captivated the young, and with a knowledge that aſtoniſhed the old; and that too againſt the firſt orator in the Houſe of Commons, whom few dare to encounter, and fewer ſtill encounter with ſucceſs. Mr. Browne had that rare felicity, and has by that, as well as by the whole of his public conduct, enſured the affections of his learned and reſpectable conſtituents.

JAMES FITZGERALD, Eſq. Prime Serjeant.

THIS gentleman has gradually riſen through the various ſteps of legal promotion to his preſent elevated ſtation at the bar, and has, ſince his firſt entrance into parliament, under the patronage of the late Lord Chief Juſtice Paterſon, been the determined and invariable ſupporter of every meaſure of every adminiſtration.—The difference between the conduct of the gentlemen of the long robe in France and in Ireland, is very ſtriking. In the former country

they are the avowed and reſolute defenders of the few privileges and liberties remaining to the Gallic nation; in the latter, if employed, or only hoping to be employed by government, they are notoriouſly the contrary; with deſpicable ſervility proſtituting their talents and their knowledge to enforce the moſt exceptionable ſchemes of the verieſt drudge of even an Engliſh ſcrivener or attorney, ſhould he happen to be dignified with the title of Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

Mr. Fitzgerald is a bold and confident public ſpeaker, ſtepping out in hardy defiance to the members of oppoſition, but by no means an orator; as his voice, though ſtrong, clear, and articulate, is frequently ill managed; as his action is deficient both in grace and force, being ſtrongly tinctured with the manner of the law courts; and as his language, though abundantly copious, is often devoid of correctneſs, and neither is graced with luminous expreſſions, nor elevated with ſplendid phraſes. It is a current flowing with rapidity, but ſometimes muddy.

His manner is warm and vehement, and in reaſoning he is acute and ſharp, and can both practice and detect ſophiſtry; but ſeems fonder of dilating than condenſing his arguments, and beats out into ſurface what would have more impreſſion if contracted into body. As he is reputed

a good

a good lawyer, the matter of his ſpeeches, eſpecially on legal queſtions, has real merit, and would oftener be allowed to have it, were it not for the partizan-like manner wherein it is produced. Leſs impetuoſity would be more effectual, and his cauſe would be benefited by leſs apparent zeal.

Hon. JOSEPH HEWITT, 3d Serjeant.

THE ſon of the Lord Chancellor, if a lawyer, may be ſecure of legal practice and promotion; and this gentleman has amply participated of both conſidering his claims to either. To *paint ere he change* the Serjeant *of the minute* is the more neceſſary, as report ſays, that, notwithſtanding his youth, he is ſhortly to be advanced to the Judicial Bench.

His voice is weak, thin and ſharp; neither pleaſing to the ear, nor commanding to the affections; and his language is plain, and unornamented, neither heightened by imagery, nor illumined by metaphors; ſimple, but commonly correct. His manner is cold and unaffecting, more conſonant to the unintereſted pleader than to the impaſſioned orator; and his action, whenever any is uſed, is heavy and phlegmatic, without life, grace or force. His arguments, though well metho-

dized and arranged, have not much energy or force. His matter is by far the beſt part of his ſpeeches, frequently poſſeſſing weight, and marking extenſive information, it deſerves more attention than is commonly paid to it. This want of attention has, probably, been in ſome degree cauſed by his unbounded practice of adulation; and adulation, if not very cautiouſly applied, ever excites diſguſt, and ſometimes is not free from the ſuſpicion of ridicule. By this his promotion may be advanced, but aſſuredly his character is ſunk.

ISAAC CORRY, Eſq.

TO be ſelected to repreſent independent and intelligent men, to meet their approbation, and to be ſupported by their affections, is a truly honourable diſtinction, which this gentleman early in life attained, and which an undeviating purſuit of the public good has fully enſured to him.

Experience taught the inhabitants of a great trading town to reſpect his knowledge and to admire his attainments; and the liberality of their minds ſuffered not that reſpect and admiration to be barren and unproductive. They felt their want of an able defender of their rights,

and

and they choſe him for the honourable office: they were conſcious of the neceſſity of procuring a well-informed ſupporter of their commercial intereſts in the great council of the nation, and their judgment fixed on him as the man beſt qualified to diſcharge that important duty. His amiable manners conciliated their affections; the ſpirit and integrity of his mind commanded their reverence. Thus it was not the weight of family connections, nor the influence of powerful patronage that introduced him into parliament, but merit conſpicuous even at its dawn, and the Spring promiſe of abilities, which the maturity of Autumn has not diſappointed.

Poſſeſſing from nature, a very pleaſing exterior, Mr. Corry loſes not that advantage, by a ſlovenly neglect of it, but on the inſtant impreſſes ſtrangers with a favourable opinion of him, by the gracefulneſs of his manner, and the unaffected propriety of his deportment. His voice is remarkably good, clear, diſtinct, and melodious, and equally adapted to thunder in the ſtorm of impetuous eloquence, or to inſinuate in the ſoothing accents of captivating perſuaſion. His language is correct, copious, and well ſelected, evidently the effect of choice, without the appearance of ſtudy; rather pure, plain, and flowing, than elevated and ſublime; ſeldom illumined with figures or heightened

by

by metaphors, but whenever uſed they are uſed with the ſtricteſt propriety. His elocution is uncommonly vehement and rapid, poſſibly from ſome imitation of the great leader of oppoſition, in the Engliſh Houſe of Commons; but, let it ariſe from what cauſe it may, it ſhould be moderated and corrected, as it frequently loſes more by its quickneſs of tranſition, than it gains by its impreſſion of force and ardour. His action (of which he uſes more than moſt Iriſh ſpeakers) is often elegant, and moſtly has both grace and ſtrength, enforcing with advantage, the weight of his reaſoning.

In argument, he is forcible, compact and methodical; not deviating from the queſtion into extrinſic circumſtances, nor wandering through a perplexed maze of incidental obſervations, but embracing it ſtrongly, he adheres to it cloſely, and wants neither art nor energy in the arrangement of his ſentiments. Having enjoyed the advantage of a liberal education, and made the proper uſe of it by ſtoring his mind with ample funds of uſeful knowledge, his matter is always excellent, appoſite, weighty, and well choſen, "*though deep, yet clear, without o'erflowing full*," and, eſpecially on all commercial queſtions, worthy of the profoundeſt attention and the utmoſt regard. Of the character of an orator, though poſſeſſing many of its beſt requiſites, he

he ſeems not emulous, but rather wiſhes to be thought a man of buſineſs; and his extenſive knowledge, his unwearied induſtry, and comprehenſive judgment fully qualify him for that department. Ever the friend of conſtitutional liberty and commercial freedom he has uniformly ſupported them, with zeal and ability, never abſenting himſelf from his duty, nor ſkulking from the diſcuſſion of important queſtions; and, having in various inſtances, materially ſerved his conſtituents, he has in all approved himſelf the worthy repreſentative of a free people.

GEORGE MOLYNEUX, Eſq.

THIS gentleman, the ſecond ſon of a Right Hon. Baronet, in the county of Armagh, has exchanged the ſword for the gown; for originally an officer, having ſerved in the army ſome years, he has been latterly called to the bar; induced, we ſuppoſe, to aſſume the long robe from the opinion that ſuch ſhining abilities as his ſhould not be buried in an unlettered profeſſion.

His voice, indeed, is good, ſtrong, full, clear, and poſſeſſed of much compaſs; and his language is copious and abundant, even to ſuperfluity, but neither pure nor very correct; aiming

aiming at elevation by the pomp of figures and the luſtre of metaphors, the former of which are ſometimes not the beſt ſelected, and the latter not the moſt accurately expreſſed. His action has often grace and often ſtrength, but both more ſtudied than natural, and evincing labour rather than feeling; and his manner is warm and animated, with ſomething of the fire of his firſt profeſſion. In argument he is feeble and deſultory, ſeldom taking in the full extent of a queſtion, and ſeldomer ſeizing on its ſtrongeſt points; but roving about in queſt of epiſodical incidents, dwelling on them with complacency, and diſplaying them with all the glittering parade of ſhewy ornament. His matter is not much diſtinguiſhed by profound inveſtigation or deep reſearch, but ſeems readily adopted and ſuddenly acquieſced in; with much ſurface it has but little depth, and though it may pleaſe the fancy, but ſeldom convinces the underſtanding.

In his parliamentary voyage, he ſet out with a violence of oppoſition, that ſurprized even the violent; but extremes are ſeldom laſting, and long ſince, the ſtrong gale of court-influence has filled the ſails of his little barque, before which it ſcuds rapidly away into the gulph of oblivion.

JOHN

JOHN FORBES, Eſq;

THIS gentleman has long made a diſtinguiſhed figure in the Houſe of Commons, and from his exertions and abilities has been thought worthy of the higheſt ſtations in the law, of which profeſſion he is a member. His voice is ſtrong and ſufficiently diſtinct, but has little ſweetneſs. His language is good, manly, and abundant, more remarkable for great energy than elegance, more invigorated by ſentiment than adorned with figures—yet generally correct and pure. His action is forcible; and his manner, without being impaſſioned, is earneſt and warm, ſeemingly dictated by a mind deeply convinced of the juſtice and rectitude of its ſentiments. In reaſoning he is exceedingly powerful, being condenſed, acute, argumentive, more addicted to conſolidate than to dilate; and whilſt he adheres to the utmoſt preciſion of logical accuracy, unfolding with maſterly ſkill all the windings of art and ſophiſtry uſed by his opponents.

As he is a man of erudition, and takes extraordinary pains to be well informed on every ſubject which he diſcuſſes, his matter has great merit, being ever weighty, ſolid, and inſtructive;

not

not remotely connected, but intimately united with the queſtion, drawn from the beſt ſources and arranged in the beſt manner. Poſſeſſing no inconſiderable talents for irony and humour, he frequently applies them happily, ridiculing with much pleaſantry and ſucceſs the flimſy arguments and futile objections he ſometimes has to encounter. In the deteſtable buſineſs of attachments he diſplayed a fund of legal knowledge highly honourable to his induſtry, and appeared on that occaſion the ableſt champion of liberty againſt ſuppoſed law, and of the conſtitution againſt aſſumed prerogative. In the debate on Mr. Orde's commercial propoſitions, of famous memory, he eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his information, judgment, and candour; and has laboured inceſſantly ſeſſion after ſeſſion, to put ſome bounds to the profuſion of the penſion-liſt. That object, together with an endeavour to fix a reſponſibility on ſome Iriſh miniſter for the expenditure of the public money, ſeems at preſent principally to engage his attention; and they are objects for the ſucceſs of which he has the conſenting good wiſhes of every honeſt and independent man in the nation.

JOHN

JOHN TOLER, Eſq; 2d Serjeant.

THIS gentleman, of a reſpectable family in the county of Tipperary, has long been working his way to the judicial bench, and is deemed not very far from the attainment of the object of his anxious wiſhes. His voice is very good, ſtrong, diſtinct, manly, and well toned; and his language, though disfigured by ſome legal quaintneſſes, and ſome legal modes of expreſſion, is commonly good, eaſy without elevation, and correct without much ſpirit. His action he ſhould ſurely endeavour to correct, for it ſeems not very happily compounded of two extremes, the bar and the theatre; now ſtrongly ſavouring of the awkward ſtiffneſs of the former, and then of the ſtudied grace of the latter.

His manner is bold and intrepid—daſhing forward with careleſs vehemence, he appears conſcious of the ſupport of a majority, and fearleſs of the diſgrace that ſometimes awaits the daring champion of queſtionable meaſures. In argument with much apparent openneſs, he practices no little concealed art, adding to a good portion of the legal quibble of the courts no ſmall ſhare of the logical ſophiſtry of the college; and is acute, though deſultory, and ſharp, though not convincing

vincing. The matter of his ſpeeches, though ſometimes flimſy, and ſometimes wire-drawn, has frequently much merit, and is well worthy of attention, (for Mr. Toler is a ſcholar) and would oftner appear ſo were it more carefully arranged and better diſpoſed; but in theſe points he is remarkably deficient, certainly from inattention more than from ignorance of method. As a placeman, and a lawyer ſeeking to be a judge, his political conduct is readily known; it is invariably guided by the Pole Star of the Caſtle.

FRANCIS HARDY, Eſq.

THE general mode wherein gentlemen are introduced into parliament by the great lords of this kingdom for thoſe boroughs to which they dictate, is as humiliating to the individual as it is pernicious to the conſtitution. Brought in merely to increaſe the weight and conſequence of their patron, they are allowed no ſentiments or deciſion of their own, but muſt vote as they are ordered, and determine as they are directed. Mr. Hardy's ſituation is a ſtriking exception to this common practice; for, though returned for one of Lord Granard's boroughs, he has been left by

by his noble friend to the influence of his own judgment and the direction of his own underſtanding in all public queſtions; and the uniform tenor of his conduct has evinced the former, and been highly honourable to the latter.

Mr. Hardy is not indebted to nature for many advantages of perſon, as he is rather low and fat; but his countenance has at times much expreſſion, and his eyes are lively and penetrating. His voice is ſtrong, deep, and mellow, poſſeſſing much compaſs, and pleaſing to the ear through all its gradation of tones from his managing it with ſkill, and his pronunciation is accurately juſt: but now and then he ſeems to ſpeak as it were through his teeth, which has a bad effect, and ſhould be corrected. His language is excellent, ſmooth, pure, and exact, and occaſionally animated, warm, and glowing; flowing with an uninterrupted ſtream of ſplendid imagery, luminous figures, and elegant alluſion—that hurries away even the unwilling mind by the force of its current. It is not a puny rill, fancifully diſpoſed, and trimly decked for an hour of diſplay, but a copious river, full, abundant, and magnificent.

His action, though not marked by grace, is forcible and expreſſive, ſtrongly pointed, but perhaps, ſomewhat too impetuous: and his manner is ſpirited, rapid, and vehement. In both

both theſe points, and indeed in many others, we think him more like the famous Mr. Charles Fox than any other member of the Iriſh ſenate. In reaſoning he is ſtrong, condenſed, and accurate, ſtrictly methodical, and even logically exact: and his arguments are commonly arranged with great ability and art, ſo as to make the moſt forcible impreſſion. In that reſpect he ſeems not unmindful of Neſtor's advice to Agamemnon how to marſhal his army. As Mr. Hardy is a man of reading, and indefatigably attentive to procure information, his mind is amply ſupplied with claſſical, ornamental, and parliamentary knowledge; (indeed in the laſt he much exceeds the greater part of the members) and the matter of his ſpeeches, derived from ſuch plentiful ſources, has always great merit, being momentous and weighty; not flimſy or frippery, not gaudy or oſtentatious; but ſolid, appoſite, and convincing. Without favouring of labour, his orations are evidently the effect of ſtudy—and he pays the compliment to his auditors of not treating them with the flippant productions of extemporaneous harangues. He has not made himſelf cheap by engaging the attention of the houſe on every trifling queſtion, but ſeems with conſcious dignity to reſerve his exertions for important occaſions. On all ſuch he has not ſhrunk from the conteſt, but appeared foremoſt

foremoſt among the foremoſt to reſiſt the uſurpations of power, and to refute the ſophiſms of craft: exerting himſelf with an energy that fired, and with a ſtrength of argument that could not be confuted.

ROBERT BOYD, Eſq.

THE avowed defender of every meaſure of government, is often expoſed to ſituations from which, if not poſſeſſed of great prudence, it is not eaſy to come off with credit, and where not to be expoſed is in ſome degree to be victorious. Of the truth of this obſervation Mr. Boyd is a remarkable inſtance; for, as cautious and prudential conſiderations ſeem to have little influence on his parliamentary conduct, he has ſometimes been ſubjected to the ſarcaſms of wit, and often been refuted by the powers of reaſoning.

Neither his voice nor action recommend him to notice as a public ſpeaker, as the former, though ſtrong, is diſagreeably toned, when loud harſh, when low indiſtinct; and the latter has more of the pedantic ſtiffneſs of the bar, than of the graces of elegance or the force of energy. His language is plain, unadorned, and tolerably correct; neither elevated nor commanding, but,

pro-

proceeding with an even courſe, it conveys his ſentiments without deeply impreſſing them; and his elocution is pompous and ſonorous, rather ſuited to magnificence of terms than to his ſimplicity of expreſſion. His manner is ſufficiently warm and ſpirited, perhaps ſometimes too much ſo; and in debating, he diſplays with ſubtilty and acuteneſs, no ſmall portion of legal ſophiſtry, and ſome powers of legal reaſoning, cautiouſly avoiding the weak parts of the queſtion, however forcibly attacked, dwelling with viſible ſatisfaction on thoſe that are ſtrong, if any ſuch it ſhould chance to have, and ſeizing on with avidity, the miſtakes or miſapprehenſions of his opponents, and expoſing them forcibly.

The arrangement of his arguments is very cenſurable, and the more ſo, as it could eaſily be remedied by attention; it is embarraſſed and perplexed, devoid of method and deſtitute of regularity, from whence an apparent confuſion ariſes, that is more in the order than the conception of his ideas. His matter is ſometimes good, ſometimes bad, and ſometimes indifferent; for he takes it as he finds it, without a laborious inveſtigation of its weight, or an anxious ſcrutiny of its ſolidity. If it anſwers the purpoſes of debate, it is ſufficiently ſtrong; if it enables him to harangue with fluency, it is ſufficiently cogent. As the determined friend, indeed, follower of the

Attorney

Attorney General, and through his intereſt aſpiring to a judge's ſeat, he uniformly votes with the miniſter of the day.

Major DOYLE.

THIS gentleman, brought into parliament for one of Lord Granard's boroughs, has conſiderably diſtinguiſhed himſelf ſince that period by the decided conduct he has purſued in all public meaſures; ſtepping forward with ardour, and combating, at leaſt with ſpirit, thoſe that he diſapproved, with more of the ſturdy independence of the country gentleman, than of the obſequious ſubmiſſion of the ſoldier. His voice is ſtrong, diſtinct, and manly; without much compaſs or variety of tones, it is always audible, and never grating: but his pronunciation is very defective, and often diſgraced by the vulgarity of a provincial accent. His language is maſculine, nervous, and pointed, and as correct as could be expected from one whoſe life has been ſpent more in action than ſtudy: perhaps ſometimes too glittering, and ſometimes too figurative, but never creeping, and always abundant. Energy, not elegance—ſtrength, not beauty, are its moſt obvious characteriſtics. His action is free and eaſy, not indeed with much

grace, and (in our opinion) too theatrical, wanting that dignified temperature adapted to the ſenate houſe: and his manner is bold and fearleſs, undaunted by numbers and unterrified by powerful opponents, with a good deal of the warmth and fire of his profeſſion.

In argument, tho' often deſultory, and ſeldom methodical, he is frequently forcible; more attentive to ſupport his own opinion than to confute his adverſary's reaſoning, and debating with an openneſs and candour that are impoſing: but the arrangement of his thoughts is very faulty, and, if he aſpires to the reputation of a public ſpeaker, ſhould be carefully corrected. The matter of his ſpeeches is never far-fetched, but familiar and eaſy, and when moſt worthy of attention viſibly rather the product of ſtrong ſenſe, and a good natural underſtanding, than of labour and ſtudy; not deeply inveſtigated but ſtrikingly applied. Poſſeſſing a talent for humour he often applies it happily; his fancy is lively, and his ſtories, for he too, like Colonel Barre, tells ſtories, have naivete, point, and ſimplicity.

Sir

Sir FREDERICK FLOOD, Bart.

Sir Frederick was firſt known in parliament as the friend and follower of his illuſtrious kinſman, Mr. Henry Flood, and for years co-operated with him in all thoſe meaſures that ſo juſtly exalted his reputation, and rendered his name dear to Iriſhmen. When Mr. Flood thought proper to join adminiſtration, the Baronet was appointed a Commiſſioner of the Stamp-Office, and ſince that period he has generally ſupported the miniſter; but without the furious zeal of a convert, or the impetuous ardour of a proſelyte.

His voice is far from good; and his elocution has a kind of meaſured dignity and ſtately pomp, more ſuited, as we apprehend, to the judge than the ſenator.—His language is plain, eaſy and ſimple, neither elevated nor figurative, nor aiming at any flights of ſublimity, but flowing evenly, it conveys his thoughts with ſufficient clearneſs; and his action has the common fault of moſt lawyers, that of being ſtrongly tinctured with the ungraceful manner of the bar. In argument he is diffuſe, comprehenſive, and full, dwelling on each circumſtance till it ſeems totally exhauſted, yet, recurring to it again, enforcing it with new reaſons, and urging it on new

grounds; not without art and acuteneſs in the management of a debate, and well ſkilled where to advance with daring determination, and where to recede with cautious prudence. The arrangement of his ſentiments has commonly merit, as, though not ſtrictly methodical, it is orderly and regular, and from thence each of them tends to reflect light on the other; whilſt the matter of his harangues deſerves praiſe, being deep, weighty and ſolid, laboroufly ſought for, and carefully ſelected. He has honourably diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his determined oppoſition to Mr. Gardiner's favourite ſcheme, ſo long and obſtinately perſevered in, of erecting turnpikes round the ſouth ſide of the city; and has been repeatedly the means of defeating that unneceſſary and obnoxious meaſure.

WILLIAM SHARMAN, Eſq.

THE reſpectable character of an independent country gentleman is not filled by any member of the Houſe of Commons with more propriety than by Mr. Sharman; who, having been the means of emancipating a borough from the thraldom of an abſentee Lord, diſcharges the truſt repoſed in him by his conſtituents with ſpirit and

and integrity. To an underſtanding naturally good he has added the poliſh of cultivation, and given the luſtre of literature to the ſtrength of reaſon.

Having imbibed from the beſt remains of antiquity that ſpirit of independence which formed its glory, he uniformly acts with a manly deciſion and a prudent zeal: determined, not vehement, reſolute, not impetuous. Cool in deliberation but warm in action, he joins to the mature wiſdom of age the vigorous exertion of youth; and renders both more amiable by their union. Poſſeſſed of ſuch qualities and merits, it is to lamented that he cannot prevail on himſelf to ſpeak in ſupport of thoſe meaſures which have his ſtrongeſt approbation and moſt decided ſupport; but an inſuperable diffidence, an invincible modeſty repreſs his powers and benumb his faculties. The babbling he daily hears from pert young maſters and noiſy talkers proves no encouragement, for he knows that

" —— Fools ruſh in where Angels dare not tread."

ROBERT HOBART, Eſq.

THE extraordinary indulgence ſhewn in this country to even the ſligheſt exertions of ſtrangers

ſtrangers is a national characteriſtic, which, however it may mark its liberality of ſentiment, tends not much to the encouragement of native genius. Of this flattering predelection Mr. Hobart experienced the full force, and was for a time exalted to no humble degree of fame by the tongue of prejudice and the voice of adulation. But the charm is broken, and the deluſion vaniſhed; and he now ſtands appreciated at his due eſtimation.

Mr. Hobart's voice is naturally good, clear, full, well toned, and with ſufficient compaſs; but he much injuries it by a ſpecies of affectation that reduces it nearly to a feminine liſp; adopted, perhaps, from his familiar intercourſe with pretty ladies and pretty gentlemen. His pronounciation is excellent, correct, and judicious, and his elocution is very properly tempered between the extremes of a too rapid and a too languid delivery. His action, for he aſpires to action, is beſt deſcribed by negatives; it is not awkward, it is not ſtiff, it is not inſipid: but to ſay that it is graceful, elegant, and animated, would be to tranſgreſs the bounds of truth.

His language is eaſy, free, and unembarraſſed; clear without purity, and ſimple without correctneſs, it flows on with facility, but neither elevates nor warms the heart with the pomp of grandeur, or the energy of force. The ſpirit of his manner

ner is pleaſing; and as he has the caution to reſtrain his fire within the limits of diſcretion, though it burns ſtrongly it never blazes. In debate he is rather deſultory than cloſe, and diffuſe than compacted; apparently more intent to ſtrike the ear than to convince the underſtanding—and more laboriouſly employed to play the advocate than to elucidate the queſtion. The arrangement of his thoughts, if arrangement it can be called, ſeems more the effect of chance, than of ſtudy or care; devoid of all method, it is ſometimes not without order. Of the matter of his ſpeeches we cannot ſay much, as it poſſeſſes a certain mediocrity of ſtyle that, though not contemptible, can but little command praiſe; it is not the product of much inveſtigation or of deep enquiry, but the ready effuſion of a man of ſome information. Sometimes ſtriking, it is ſeldom feeble, and, though it might eaſily be much better, we often meet with worſe Brought into Parliament by adminiſtration, and enjoying a place in ſome meaſure created for him, his every faculty is dedicated to the ſervice of the Miniſter.

WIL-

WILLIAM TODD JONES, Eſq.

THIS gentleman, ſelected by the borough of Litburn, to repreſent it in parliament, immediately after it had thrown off thoſe ſhackles wherein it had been ſo long kept by the Hertford family, was delegated to that honourable truſt from a preconceived opinion of his integrity and underſtanding; and he has ſince ſteadily co-operated in all public meaſures, with his worthy aſſociate, Mr. Sharman. His voice is clear and articulate, a little indeed too ſharp and ſhrill, but, though without depth or mellowneſs, devoid of harſhneſs; and a more artful management of it would effectually diminiſh, if not remove, its preſent moſt obvious defect. His language has merit, being eaſy, free, and copious, ſometimes elevated and generally ſpirited: perhaps a little too glittering and a little too pointed, with more of the ſhewy antitheſis of Gibbon, than of the ſimple dignity of Robertſon; but theſe are defects to be pardoned in a young man, as it is eaſier to prune than to add, and by time and reflection they may be abundantly corrected.

His manner is warm and ſpirited, marked by the ardour of truth and the impaſſioned earneſtneſs of ſincere conviction; and his action,

tion, conſonant to his manner, has animation and fire, with more ſtrength than grace, and more force than elegance. Though ſometimes dwelling on thoſe incidental circumſtances that illuſtrate, indeed, but cannot decide the queſtion, he is commonly in argument cloſe, compact, and condenſed; and he viſibly labours to give that impreſſion to his reaſoning; and his arrangement is orderly and regular, without apparent art, and without ſcholaſtic ſtiffneſs. His imagination is fertile and lively, abounding in pictureſque imagery and poetic conceptions; for Mr. Jones has a talent for poetry, which he has exerciſed with merited approbation. Bred to the profeſſion of the law, which, however, he does not practice, he is by no means deficient in legal and conſtitutional knowledge; and, as he is no indifferent ſcholar, his ſtores of claſſical and polite literature are large. Hence, the matter of his ſpeeches derives unuſual merit, being neither weak, feeble, nor inconcluſive, but ſtrong, ſolid, and deciſive: at times, we acknowledge, too ſuperficially gleaned, and too careleſsly digeſted, and hence expoſed unguarded to the attacks of his opponents, but ever ſupporting itſelf by its intrinſic worth and real merit. Though its ſurface may be grazed by the point of the enemy's dart, its body its unſconſcious of a wound.

LORD

LORD VISCOUNT DELVIN.

WHEN the offspring of illuſtrious houſes are ambitious of diſtinguiſhing themſelves in Parliament, we ſhould ever be happy that their exertions were ſuch, as entitled them to receive the deſerved meed of praiſe: and, as this noble Lord is the eldeſt ſon of one of the moſt reſpectable families in the kingdom, few men in that reſpect have more claim to our regard. But, though we wiſh to celebrate, we freely avow, that we are not inclined to flatter.

Lord Delvin's voice is unharmonious and low, and his pronounciation thick and indiſtinct, ſo much ſo, indeed, that it is ſometimes not eaſy to underſtand him.—His action is not remarkable either for the graces of elegance, or the energy of force, and ſeems more adapted to diſplay an arm-hat or a ring, than to enforce the ſentiments he delivers. His language is the plain, unadorned ſtile of common converſation, neither elevated by figures, nor glowing with imagery, but flowing with facility, and ſomewhat deficient both in purity and correctneſs: whilſt his manner is vehement and impetuous, as if zeal could compenſate for force, and ardour for energy. In argument he is diffuſe and rather deſultory, deviating from the ſtrong points

points in debate, and deſcanting with complacency on the firſt circumſtance that occurs; and his arrangement, ſuch as it is, is the caſual child of chance, not the offspring of meditation. The matter of his ſpeeches is rather weak and feeble.—From its debility liable to ſevere retorts, it adds but little ſtrength to the reaſoning of his friends, and when ſafe from the ſeverity of cenſure, is not entitled to laviſh praiſe.

At Lord Delvin's firſt entrance into Parliament, his conduct was ſtrongly marked by the manly ſpirit which ſhould ever diſtinguiſh the dignified and noble: but under the late Duke of Rutland's government, he was appointed to a lucrative place, and being an avowed favourite of the preſent adminiſtration, and even ſuppoſed a confidental friend of the Lord Lieutenant's, his parliamentary conduct now is eaſily known.

ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY, Eſq.

IN a portrait where the features are prominent and ſtriking; where boldneſs of manner in ſome degree compenſates for want of elegance, and where the ruggedneſs of the ſurface, though it betrays a neglect, yet ſtrongly indicates the hand of a maſter; ſuch a picture is

frequently

frequently ſought after, and not much leſs eſteemed in the cabinets of the curious than the finiſhed productions of the moſt laborous artiſts. The delineation of character may be allowed ſuch an affinity to portrait painting as to juſtify this alluſion; eſpecially when we attempt to ſketch ſuch a man as Mr. Montgomery, who obviouſly endeavours to diſtinguiſh himſelf by a ſtern roughneſs of manner, utterly abhorrent from every thing that can be thought graceful: and by it he is indeed eminently diſtinguiſhed.

But with all this roughneſs of manner, and with loud and pompous pretences to undeviating patriotiſm, his mind is not formed of that ſtern ſtuff that never bends to the ſoftening applications of mineſterial influence, nor is tempered by thoſe means which the agents of the court ſo well know how to apply. During Lord Townſhend's adminiſtration the noted meaſure of the Stamp Act, a meaſure for which America had nearly rebelled, was carried through the Houſe of Commons merely by his vote and that of his then colleague, a man notoriouſly under his direction. The avowed reaſon for this dereliction of principle was the attainment of a paltry boon for the county which he repreſented: its real cauſe was not latent, the procuring a collection for his friend, and ſmall places for ſome of his dependents.

Such

Such conduct delighted not the ſturdy Northerns, and the effects of their reſentment he was likely to feel. But fortunately for his political conſequence, his brother chanced to be ſlain before the walls of Quebec, in the late unfortunate American war, fighting againſt his country, and that circumſtance ſecured him the warm ſupport of a powerful party in the county of Donegall. His demerits were forgotten in their enthuſiaſtic admiration of his brother's ſuppoſed glory. Again was he elected for the county, and again had an opportunity of rewarding the confidence of his conſtituents.

His voice is ſtrong, loud, and forcible, without compaſs, but diſtinct, though ſeldom well managed, and frequently raiſed to an offenſive degree; and his pronunciation has a ſtrong ſavour of the northern accent. In delivery he is more temperate than could be expected from the violence of his ſentiments, and his language, though rather the clothing of the thoughts of a plain and warm country gentleman than the ſtudied eloquence of a public ſpeaker, poſſeſſes nerve and energy. Tolerably correct, but ſeldom animated by figures, or ſoaring on the wings of ſublimity, it proceeds uniformly with ſtrength and force, ariſing more from the thoughts it conveys than from the curious ſelection of its terms. His reaſoning is cloſe, ſtrong, and argumentative;

tive; abounding in pointed obſervations, and ſhrewd and ſevere remarks; never indulging any wanton flights of imagination, nor deviating from what he thinks, or has been taught, are the deciſive points of the queſtion, but preſſing them homely, and even impetuouſly: and, as he never gives quarter, he is confeſſedly a formidable opponent. The arrangement of his thoughts, though deſtitute of regular order, is free from confuſion: and from his clearneſs of conception, as we apprehend, is much better than commonly reſults from a ſimilar want of care. We cannot ſay that his matter appears to us deſerving of much praiſe, as it has more point than information, and ſeverity than inſtruction: it is ſtriking, but not new; forcible, but familiar: more the reſult of manly common ſenſe than the effect of ſtudious inveſtigation, and rather produced on the moment than ſought for antecedently.

He generally oppoſes the ſchemes of the miniſter, and that with a boiſterous fierceneſs peculiarly his own, unleſs at thoſe moments when the courtly opiates have ſoothed him into peace; and he has been a ſteady ſupporter of the principal meaſures enforced by his exalted friend Mr. Flood.

HEN-

HENRY VAUGHAN BROOKE, Eſq.

TO be choſen by a ſpirited and independent county to repreſent them in parliament, is a diſtinction that Mr. Brooke in a great meaſure owes to the general opinion of his integrity and honour entertained by his conſtituents; for the powerful intereſts of the county were combined againſt him: and *he* poſſeſſed not the ideal merit of a brother fallen in the imagined cauſe of liberty. But, deceived in their expectations on a former occaſion, the people of Donegall juſtly deemed it their duty to be peculiarly cautious in their ſelection of a repreſentative, and their caution has met with its due reward in the public conduct of Mr. Brooke, which has been firm, temperate, and manly; and as diſtant from the muliſh obſtinacy of an indiſcriminate oppoſition, as from the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion of venality or corruption.

He neither is nor affects to be an orator, as he poſſeſſes not the natural abilities, or the acquired habits requiſite to ſuſtain that eminent character: but he delivers the opinions of an honeſt man with firmneſs and deciſion; neither tricking them out in the gaudy frippery of meretricious ornament, nor debaſing them by the ſordid garb of low vulgarity. If his language is at any time feeble, it is ſupported by the ſtrength of his thoughts;

thoughts; and the energy of his ſentiments in ſome meaſure compenſates for the coldneſs of his manner. He never long engages the attention of the houſe, but ſatisfies himſelf with ſome pertinent and pointed obſervations, conciſely expreſſed and forcibly applied; and therefore in argument he has more of the condenſed cloſeneſs of Thucydides than of the majeſtic abundance of Livy. His matter is in general very good, nervous, maſculine and inſtructive: as he is not ambitious of ſpeaking on every queſtion, it is as well digeſted as ſelected: and, as he enjoyed the advantage of a liberal education, he is poſſeſſed of ſtores not readily exhauſted, and very different from thoſe diſplayed by the gleaners of pamphlets, and the retailers of the fungous productions of the preſs. It were, indeed, to be wiſhed that ſuch a man would exert himſelf more; that he would call forth his latent powers, and rouſe his torpid energies, nor ſuffer diſſipation or play to repreſs his faculties. He would find a reward in the very ſpirit of the effort; but, to a perſon of his liberal mind one much more flattering in the increaſed power which he would thus acquire of ſerving the community.

WIL-

WILLIAM OGILVIE, Eſq.

THIS gentleman, who has for ſome years been married to the Ducheſs Dowager of Leinſter, a lady as remarkable for her beauty and accompliſhments as for her high rank and ſuperior underſtanding, was brought into parliament by Mr. Conolly for his borough of Ballyſhannon; and he has there rendered eſſential ſervice to the nation by the laborioufneſs of his attention, and by the exertion of his abilities. As a political writer he has a claim to merit; for the beſt pamphlet publiſhed in 1785 on the twenty propoſitions of memorable fame was generally attributed to him, and was univerſally read and eſteemed.

His voice is clear, articulate, and tolerably melodious, with a good deal of compaſs and much inflexion of tones: but his pronunciation ſtill retains much of the Scots accent, (for he is a native of Scotland) which is a peculiarity diſagreeable to a good ear, and that ought, if poſſible, to be avoided. His language is ſtrong, nervous, and correct; equally diſtant from the extremes of a too plain and a too ſplendid phraſeology it preſerves a temperature of character excellently adapted to the ſpirited reaſoner, though it may be not ſufficiently elevated for the commanding orator. His action is

not deſtitute of grace, but it is more marked by force; and his manner is warm and animated, ſeemingly the reſult of a ſtrongly convinced mind: intrepid, not daring; fearleſs, not confident. In reaſoning he is cloſe, pointed, and acute, ſtrongly argumentative, and even ſcholaſtically exact; and he both knows, and can practice the arts of debate, preſſing forcibly what is ſtrong and dexterouſly gloſſing over what is weak in the queſtions he defends; whilſt his arrangement is ſtrictly regular, and carefully methodized, ſo as to reflect new light on the train of his thoughts.

Well acquainted with the noble remains of ancient learning, and converſant in the productions of modern literature, his matter is weighty, full, and abundant, derived from the beſt ſources, ſelected with pains and attention, and brought forth, not oſtentatiouſly as a weapon of parade for ſhew and glitter, but uſefully as the efficient arms of ſenſe and reaſon. Altho' perhaps ſomewhat deficient in livelineſs of fancy and vigour of imagination, he is yet frequently ſhrewd in his obſervations and ſarcaſtic in his remarks, which have a poignancy that is felt, and a ſting that wounds: they have indeed expoſed him to ſome unpleaſant retorts that had better have been avoided, and leſs aſperity would have been more ſafe. In the debates on

Mr.

Mr. Orde's commercial propoſitions he eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his knowledge, ſagacity, and induſtry, effectually expoſing to merited abhorrence that ſyſtem of duplicity and deluſion: and he has, for a length of time, taken an active part in oppoſition to thoſe meaſures that have commonly been deemed injurious to the proſperity of Ireland.

HENRY HATTON, Eſq.

THIS gentleman, whoſe firſt parliamentary exhibitions excited ſtrong expectations of future excellence, has been far from realizing the fond hopes entertained by his friends. The maturity of Autumn, we acknowledge, often belies the promiſes of Spring; but the cauſes of his failing are not to be ſought in any ill-ſtared influence of the ſeaſons, but in the neglect of cultivation, and the diſſipation of time.

Mr. Hatton's voice, though not entitled to much praiſe, cannot juſtly be blamed; it is ſufficiently ſtrong, diſtinct, and well-toned; but not very full or deep, and at times, probably from affectation, mincing and emaſculate; and his language, which aims not at fire or elevation, is, from want of care, defective in purity and correctneſs; whilſt he often ſeems embarraſſed for the

want of a proper word, and confuſed by the ſelection of a term. His action, ſomewhat ſtudied, is not however without grace and force, but with more of the former than the latter, and his manner has the ardour, but not the impetuoſity, of youth. His reaſoning is by no means powerful, being looſe, rambling, and unconnected; with ſuch ſuddenneſs of tranſition, and ſuch pindaric flights from one argument to another, as are neither eaſily followed nor eaſily ſeen: but, with an arrangement of thought faulty in the extreme, his fancy is lively, and his imagination vivid. The matter of his ſpeeches has too much of that ſkimble ſkamble ſtuff of which the poet ſpeaks, to merit high commendation, and appears to have been haſtily adopted, not ſtudiouſly ſought after, and called forth on the ſpur of the occaſion, without the labour of profound thought: yet, amidſt feebleneſs and weakneſs, but too viſible, the innate force of a good natural underſtanding, not uncultivated by ſcience and letters, often breaks out in obſervations that are ſtrong and remarks that are ſtriking. His political conduct has long been directed to the attainment of a place, and conſequently has without variation been influenced by the wiſhes of the miniſter.

Right

Right Hon. WILLIAM CONYNGHAM.

IT ſeldom happens that gentlemen who have addicted themſelves early to the military profeſſion, and endeavoured to excel therein, make any conſpicuous figure as public ſpeakers, or in the civil departments of the ſtate. A man

——" The State's whole thunder born to weild,
And ſhake alike, the Senate and the Field,"

is confeſſedly an uncommon character; and the habit of warlike purſuits in various inſtances, indiſpoſes the mind to the attainment of thoſe acquiſitions eſſentially neceſſary to the due diſcharge of civil employments.—If the latter are aſſumed, they are oftener taken than adequately filled; if the former is attempted, boldneſs of manner, more than juſtneſs of execution, is what excites to it attention. Mr. Conyngham is, indeed, an exception to this general obſervation, who, having early in life entered into the army and continued in it long, being for ſome years a Lieutenant-Colonel, has diſtinguiſhed himſelf much as a parliamentary orator, and now fills an office in the ſtate, with credit and ability.

To the advantage of a voice good, though not excellent, being clear, diſtinct, and thoroughly audible, but, with ſome tendency to a liſp, he adds a pronunciation perfectly accurate, and

and a delivery very well tempered between vehemence and langour, but more inclining to rapidity than ſlowneſs. His language has always the merit of preciſion, and unites with much force ſome elegance; ſparing, though not deſtitute of ornament, it keeps more within the level track of animated converſation than it ſoars into the regions of figurative and ſublime expreſſion: and his manner is warm and ſpirited, but certainly too ſtrongly marked with the remains of ſoldierly importance, and military inſolence. As Mr. Conyngham is eminently well acquainted with the whole circle of the polite arts, this, we truſt, he will ſpeedily correct; for he is too ſkilful a judge to admire a manneriſt. His action is ſtrong, forcible, and energetic, pointedly conveying his ſentiments, and evidently the effuſion of the moment, not the ſtudied exhibition of the day.

In reaſoning, tho' neither unwilling, nor ignorant how, to uſe the ſophiſtry of the ſchools, he is in general condenſed and argumentative; often pointed, and often powerful, never introducing tireſome digreſſions, nor fatiguing his hearers with trite reflections, uſeleſs remarks, or affected witicíſms, that play round the imagination, but touch not the underſtanding: and the arrangement of his thoughts, which is clearly not the beſt, has yet a degree of method ſufficiently

per-

perceivable. Being a man of conſiderable information in all parts of elegant learning, and well verſed in the principles of trade and policy, though not of profound erudition, the matter of his ſpeeches poſſeſſes real merit: not feeble or nugatory, or amuſive, but full of inſtruction, appoſite, and ſolid, well digeſted, and better choſen, it is obviouſly the effect of ſtudious care and attentive inveſtigation. Even when weakeſt, it has ſhew where it wants ſolidity, and when ſtrong it is not readily refuted. In his political capacity he has ever been a ſteady ſupporter of adminiſtration, enforcing its meaſures, and palliating its miſconduct; and has always deſerved the thanks of the miniſter, although but ſometimes thoſe of his country.

JAMES KEARNEY, Eſq.

A man unconnected with party, and who votes from the uninfluenced bias of his underſtanding, is a character rare and uncommon; but not more rare than reſpectable, nor uncommon than praiſe-worthy. It ſhould be the diſtinguiſhing mark of the upright and candid country gentleman, who alike ſcorns ſervility and faction; and Mr. Kearney has very juſtly merited all the praiſe it deſerves. With an heart

above

above temptation, and a mind ſuperior to deception, he acts with ſpirit and firmneſs, neither miſguided by the miſts of paſſion, nor led aſtray by the meteors of falſe eloquence.

He is indeed warm and vehement; but his warmth is the warmth of integrity, and his vehemence the vehemence of reaſon. He is a manly and ſenſible public ſpeaker, not an orator, for to oratory he forms no pretenſions; and if he did, neither his voice nor his action would ſtrongly ſecond them, as the former, though ſtrong, maſculine, and full, has few variations of tone, and the latter is deficient both in grace and ſtrength. In reaſoning he is acute, cloſe, and argumentative; more addicted to enforce the obviouſly ſtrong points of a queſtion than to deviate into epiſode, or to waſte his attention on extrinſic obſervations: and his arrangement has the merit of order and clearneſs, neither indeed ſtrictly regular, but both the effect of an unclouded underſtanding. In matter he abounds, (for he is a man of knowledge and learning,) and that too of the beſt kind; appoſite, well digeſted, and well choſen; not ſhewy but ſolid; not oſtentatiouſly diſplayed but forcibly applied. The more it is weighed the deeper is its impreſſion, and though its ſtrength may be evaded it cannot be denied.

TRA-

TRAVERS HARTLEY, Eſq.

TO be elected to repreſent the metropolis of the kingdom, is a diſtinction, when freely beſtowed, that has been thought to confer celebrity on the firſt man of the nation, on him whoſe illuſtrious birth and liberal mind would reflect luſtre on any ſtation; and it is a diſtinction impoſing duties laborious to diſcharge, and arduous to fulfil. When honeſtly diſcharged they receive an ample tribute of acknowledgment, and procure to the virtuous repreſentative the moſt pleaſing reward, next to a conſcious rectitude of ſoul, in the exulting applauſe of his fellow citizens. This reward has been often merited and received by Mr. Hartley, who has the noble ſatisfaction of reflecting that on a character, highly reſpectable in private life, his public conduct has fixed a ſeal of approbation, whoſe impreſſion no time will obliterate.

It would be unfair to conſider Mr. Hartley as a public ſpeaker, for he aims not at the character, he aſpires not to its fame; ſatisfied with delivering artleſsly and freely the juſt conceptions of an independent mind: but yet truth will compel even the uncandid to confeſs that in the moſt eſſential qualities of a parliamentary ſpeaker he poſſeſſes merit of a very ſuperior kind. His voice is, indeed, weak and diſagreeably toned, his

his manner cold and formal, and he totally abſtains from every ſpecies of action: but his language is clear, conciſe, and energetic, neat with ſimplicity, and correct without labour. It is not formed, like Bays's prologues, to elevate and ſurpriſe, but proceeds leiſurely and modeſtly, free from all gaudy glare and ambitious ornament, and untarniſhed by any peculiarity of ſtile, or quaintneſs of expreſſion.

In reaſoning he is acute, argumentative, and ſevere; ſtrictly accurate in his own deductions, and not much diſpoſed to indulge the ſophiſtical ſtatements, or the deluſive defences of his opponents. He never wanders into uſeleſs digreſſions, but having with attention viewed the ſubject of debate in various lights, he takes it up on liberal principles, and treats it with diſtinctneſs and perſpicuity. Intimately acquainted with all the minutiæ of trade, fully maſter of the moſt approved principles of commerce, and by no means ignorant of the general foundations and rights of ſociety and government, the matter of his ſpeeches is ever deſerving of, and moſt frequently meets with, the utmoſt attention. Momentous, weighty, and inſtructive it, in ſome meaſure compels regard, and has before now forced an unwilling conviction on obſtinacy and prejudice, on official pride and miniſterial dignity. Without wantonly oppoſing government for

for oppoſition ſake, Mr. Hartley has diſcharged the honourable truſt delegated to him by his conſtituents with ſpirit and integrity: ſteady to the cauſe of truth, juſtice, and liberty; and by the whole tenor of his conduct has fully approved himſelf, what the poet truly calls the nobleſt work of the Creator, "an honeſt man."

Sir NICHOLAS LAWLESS, Bart.

WE ſometimes meet with characters in ſociety which it is difficult to conceive by what means they have wrought themſelves into diſtinction; but where an individual is conſpicuous for the poſſeſſion of great wealth, however recently acquired, that difficulty at once ceaſes. We know by experience the deference paid to the goods of fortune, and the diſtinction conferred by ample acquiſitions; that they give exaltation to meanneſs, and often veil, if not hide, defects of the head and of the heart. Sir Nicholas has felt the full force of their powerful operation, and few men (except, perhaps, his noble nephew*) have had more reaſon to boaſt of their influence, and to celebrate their effects.

Sir Nicholas has ſome ſtriking deficiencies, as his perſon, tho' far from bad, has more of the awkward ſtiffneſs of a French dancing-maſter, than

* Lord Earlsfort.

than of the eaſy, diſengaged air of a well-bred gentleman; and his voice is peculiarly unpleaſing, it having a ſharp, querulous tone, grating to the ear, equally deſtitute of ſtrength, or ſweetneſs, of melody, or compaſs. His language is plain, ſimple, and unornamented, neither devoid of correctneſs, nor debaſed by vulgariſms, but copious without energy, and flowing without force. His manner, far enough from warmth or fire, is yet at times ſpirited; but even his ſpirit is moderated by a due regard to a decent decorum: and his delivery, influenced by his general manner, is temperate, free from either impetuoſity or flatneſs, but with more of the latter than the former quality.

What action he uſes were better omitted, as unrecommended by grace or expreſſion, it is at once ſtudied and languid. In argument he adheres cloſely to the queſtion before the houſe, reaſoning with ſome ſtrength and force, and, as he ſeems not to be miſled by the brilliant phantoms of fancy, never deviating into any extrinſic obſervations: but by his want of a due arrangement of his ideas, every hearer is tired and diſſatisfied. Early initiated in all the myſteries of trade, he is not ignorant of the principles of commerce or political economy, and on ſuch queſtions the matter of his ſpeeches has certainly merit: but in general, as his fund of knowledge

appears

appears not very extenſive, tho' he is evidently a man of ſome reading, it is too trite and common, too ſuperficial and flimſy (yet perhaps very carefully ſought) to deſerve praiſe. The great object on which his heart is fixed, next to the accumulation of money, is the attainment of a peerage; and to procure that ſplendid diſtinction, he has for ſome years dedicated himſelf moſt aſſiduouſly to the ſervice of every adminiſtration.

LORD CHARLES FITZGERALD.

OCCUPATIONS are to be met with in ſociety, which impoſe duties arduous to execute, and expoſe to dangers alarming to encounter. When theſe duties are executed with knowledge, and ability, and theſe dangers encountered with ſpirit and perſeverance, they never fail to procure to the deſerving individual the grateful thanks of the community. And if the occupations are eſſential not only to the honour and ſafety, but to the very exiſtence of the ſtate, the warmth of gratitude increaſes in proportion to the magnitude of its object, and the ſtrong impulſe of ſentiment is confirmed by the deliberate ſanction of reaſon. The naval profeſſion is evidently, in theſe kingdoms, one of that deſcription,

tion, as by its means we have withſtood a world in arms combined againſt us, and have riſen ſuperior to the arts and the power of our foes: and in that profeſſion the noble Lord, whoſe character we attempt, has diſtinguiſhed himſelf with an honour becoming the illuſtrious houſe from whence he ſprings, and with a zeal and intrepidity that reflects credit on his native country.

Lord Charles neither is, nor pretends to rank as, a public ſpeaker, for he very ſeldom delivers his ſentiments in parliament; and, when the importance of the occaſion appears to require it, he expreſſes himſelf with remarkable conciſeneſs; ſeemingly conſcious that his field is the ſcene of real action, not the theatre for the diſplay of wordy weapons. Yet there are many, who teize the houſe with the pertneſs of loquacity, and the frothy babbling of unfledged boyiſm, that have not half his pretenſions to claim its regard—confidence ſupplying in them what modeſty conceals in him: as to a voice naturally ſtrong, full, and deep, tho' improperly depreſſed by too great diffidence, he joins a pronunciation ſtrictly juſt, and language correct and expreſſive. Not indeed abundant or very freely flowing, not pompous or figurative, but plain, and level, yet nervous; ſtrong without effort, and forcible without art: and his manner has much

much of that profeſſional ſpirit which wins upon the human heart, which commands reſpect, and ſecures attachment.

In reaſoning he is ſhort, cloſe, and pointed, neither dilating nor condenſing his thoughts, but expreſſing with ſimplicity and openneſs the honeſt ſentiments of an honeſt heart; not abounding in elaborate arguments nor winding through the meanders of involution to his end, but making his way directly and conciſely. Although early intended for a naval life, as his education was carefully ſuperintended, he is by no means deficient in uſeful and ornamental knowledge; hence his matter derives conſiderable merit, and neither feeble nor contemptible, poſſeſſes ſhrewdneſs of obſervation and depth of political remark. It conſiſts not of a ſet of aphoriſms unſupported by facts, whoſe brilliancy might entertain yet more frequently miſleads, but of ſome ſtriking truths intimately connected with the ſubject of debate, and tending much to its elucidation. In moſt of the public queſtions that have lately been diſcuſſed in parliament, Lord Charles, as well as his noble brothers, has acted againſt the ſervants of the crown, but without the acrimony of perſonal reſentment or the ſtubbornneſs of determined oppoſition; and whilſt he ſupported the rights of the people with firmneſs and deciſion, neither

peeviſhly

peeviſhly obſtructed nor wantonly counteracted the equitable meaſures of government.

JOHN WOLFE, Eſq.

THE election of a repreſentative of a county is in many caſes attended with ſuch tumult, riot, and expence, that the wiſe and the virtuous are frequently deterred from the conteſt by its probable conſequences: for ſince a ſeat in parliament has become not only an object of honourable ambition but a means of private emolument, its attainment is diſputed with all the low and little arts of little minds, and theſe arts are but too often ſucceſsful. It is therefore a peculiarly fortunate circumſtance when the well-earned fame or eſtabliſhed character of an individual ſo powerfully conciliate the attachment of the conſtituents in his favour, that all oppoſition to him muſt be obviouſly fruitleſs; as in that caſe, they have the ſatisfaction of delegating their deareſt rights to the man of their choice, without injury to their own morals, or to his honour and fortune. The county of Kildare enjoyed that ſingular felicity in ſelecting Mr. Wolfe to repreſent them; whoſe amiable manners, maſculine underſtanding, and unſpotted integrity united all affections in his favour, and

and ſecured the ſupport of the moſt deciſive intereſts.

Mr. Wolfe's voice, without having much extent, is clear, articulate, well-toned, and ſufficiently ſtrong; and he commonly manages it ſo as to give it its full effect, neither needleſsly depreſſing nor abſurdly elevating it in an extraordinary degree. His delivery, tho' rather inclining to rapidity, is perfectly diſtinct; and his language is forcible, manly, and pointed; animated more by the vigour of the ſentiments it conveys than by the artful conſtruction of figures; and not without elegance, but moſt commonly free from ornament. Unſupported by a pomp of phraſe or a ſplendour of diction, it pleaſes by its ſpirit and energy. His manner is warm, and at times even vehement, indeed ſo vehement as to require correction; for although it evidently ariſes from the force of galled feelings and the indignation of inſulted reaſon, it both diminiſhes the weight and enfeebles the ſtrength of his arguments, colouring with paſſion the ſober dictates of truth.

His reaſoning powers are ſtrong, and he exerciſes them on all ſubjects with much advantage, debating with cloſeneſs and preciſion, and never deviating from the queſtion into unconnected circumſtances. Quick-ſighted in diſcerning the weakneſs of his opponents, as well as

ſagacious to guard againſt their attacks, he expoſes in a ſtriking manner the ſhewy nothingneſs of their ſophiſtry and the artifice of their craft; whilſt his own arguments remain unimpeachable, and derive much luſtre from the excellence of their arrangement, which is generally luminous, uniting with even logical accuracy a free and unſtudied appearance.

Having enjoyed the advantage of a liberal and claſſical education, of which his good ſenſe taught him to reap the richeſt fruits, his mind is fully ſtored with a variety of knowledge of the beſt kind, which lies ready for uſe and prepared for every exigence. The matter of his ſpeeches from hence acquires extraordinary merit, being inſtructive, momentous and ever well ſelected; not reflecting a tranſient glimmer of uncertain light on the ſubject, but illuminating it with a blaze both bright and ſteady. In his political capacity Mr. Wolfe has invariably approved himſelf an earneſt friend to the proſperity of Ireland, firmly oppoſing the pernicious ſchemes of deſigning miniſters, and warmly ſupporting every plan of interior polity or improvement that tended to benefit the country.

THOMAS

THOMAS BURGH, Eſq; of Old-Town.

PARLIAMENTARY knowledge has become of late years, from the multiplicity of its objects, ſo complicated a ſcience that an acquaintance with it is not to be attained without ſerious and ſevere ſtudy. Confident prattlers, as void of information as modeſty, who cannot ſee, are made to feel, its neceſſity, by the ridiculous ſituations into which they are often brought by their ignorance. But the man of ſenſe and reflection, who wiſhes not to hear himſelf talk but to convince the underſtandings of the members, and ſo, if poſſible, ſerve the community, labours aſſiduouſly to acquire that indiſpenſable qualification, and finds an ample reward of his labour in the difference with which he is attended to, and the regard with which he is heard. Mr. Burgh, in whoſe character ſound ſenſe and not exterior glitter forms a conſtituent part, has viſibly taken pains to make himſelf maſter of it, and his ſucceſs, as might be expected, has correſponded to the ardour of his application.

Mr. Burgh's voice is not ſuch as an orator would wiſh for, as, though clear, articulate, and poſſeſſed of a great variety of tones, it is weak, hollow, and ſometimes ſcarcely audible; it may pleaſe but cannot command, it may perſuade

but cannot agitate. His delivery has much dignity, and, being exceedingly well tempered between the faulty extremes, it is vehement without precipitancy and ſolemn without langour: and his language is copious, nervous, and brilliant, uniting purity and correctneſs with preciſion and elegance. It is not ſtudiouſly adorned with the flowers of rhetoric, nor affectedly elevated by the the ſplendonr of figures, but without being rejected they are not ſought for; and when they occur, which is not often, they ſeem ſpontaneouſly produced by the impulſe of the moment, not carefully culled for the purpoſe of parade. His manner is earneſt, warm and animated, but perhaps, at times with too ſtrong a tendency to vehemence: and his action combines in a pleaſing degree grace with force; it is natural, expreſſive, and ſpirited.

In reaſoning he is ſtrict, acute, and argumentive, in general confining himſelf to the immediate ſubject of diſcuſſion without any excurſive flights or devious wanderings; and whilſt he forcibly aſſaults the ſtrong-holds of his adverſaries cautiouſly avoids laying himſelf open, by weakneſs of deduction to a ſeverity of attack; whilſt the whole practice of dialectics being well known to him, his arrangement poſſeſſes real merit, for it is clear, regular, and methodical, his arguments, from their poſition reflecting light

and

and ſtrength on each other. Educated in the Univerſity of Dublin, he applied with ſpirit and perſeverance to the acquiſition of that knowledge which ſhe is ſo capable to impart, and hence ſtored his mind with abundant ſources of claſſic and ſcientific lore; and as habits of induſtry are not quickly forſaken, his maturer years have added to theſe a large fund of polite and political information: by which means the matter of his ſpeeches claims every attention, as it is uniformly ſolid, appoſite, and ſtriking, bringing ſatisfaction to the judgment and conviction to the underſtanding. In parliament Mr. Burgh has been ever a friend of liberty, and conſtant in his ſupport of the general intereſts of the people: and on ſome important queſtions has taken a decided and manly part, alike honourable to himſelf and beneficial to his country.

THOMAS BURGH, Eſq. of Bert.

THE compacts of honour univerſally underſtood to prevail between the poſſeſſors of Boroughs and thoſe whom they nominate to repreſent them, however in general injurious to the intereſts of the ſtate, can ſeldom, if ever, be violated without a breach of principle at once

once deſpicably mean and infamouſly vile. As patriotiſm, like charity, covers a multitude of ſins, a deſertion from the ſtandard of the court to the cauſe of the people will naturally be regarded with favour by the majority, and be conſidered as the emancipation of a freeman rather than as the flight of a ſlave—but an apoſtacy from the people to retain, or to earn, the wages of ſervility, can expect little quarter, and hope for leſs indulgence. That there is any ſimilarity to ſo reprehenſible a conduct in Mr. Burgh's public life we are far from venturing to aſſert; the ſpirit of a ſoldier, which he once was, and the character of a gentleman, which he ſurely ſupports with credit, ſhould, we would hope, preſerve him from even its ſuſpicion.

As a parliamentary ſpeaker Mr. Burgh's voice is ſtrong and deep, without much compaſs or melody, and at particular times it has a vulgarity of tone ſurpriſing in a man of his rank. His delivery is commonly temperate, and but occaſionally verging on rapidity never ſinks into a languid drawl: whilſt his language aſpires not to any fame beyond that of colloquial familiarity. With great plenty of words it is not remarkable for purity, correctneſs, or elegance, and ſeems more confidently uttered than carefully ſelected. His manner ſtands in need of much alteration, if he wiſhes to win the affec-

tions

tions or to command the favourable attention of his auditors, as it is highly offenſive; not warm and animated, but arrogant and overbearing, with much of the authoritative bluſter of military command, and little of the unaſſuming modeſty of affected diffidence.

Of the ſtrength of his reaſoning, and the method of his arrangement we ſhould wiſh to ſpeak with approbation were that in our power, but the former is as looſe, deſultory, and inconcluſive, as the latter is deſtitute of regularity or clearneſs. As on certain ſubjects he is very well informed, when he confines himſelf to them, the matter of his ſpeeches is replete with inſtruction, and juſtly merits regard: but as his general knowledge is not very extenſive, nor appears to have been laborioufly ſought after, when he ventures beyond thoſe limited bounds we may admire the boldneſs of the attempt, yet cannot ſay that it is juſtified by the ſucceſs of its execution. Holding two employments under government, and connecting himſelf ſolely with the Speaker, though brought into parliament by his relation the Duke of Leinſter, he has for many years been a determined ſupporter of adminiſtration.

Right

Right Hon. JOHN MONCK MASON.

PROSTITUTION of talents, tho' often amply paid for, is ever a melancholy object, humbling to the pride of genius, and degrading to the loftineſs of abilities; as it ſhews but too plainly to what meanneſs the one will deſcend, and to what drudgery the other will ſubmit. It is alſo one of thoſe faults that a man cannot conceal from himſelf; the ſame ſenſibility of ſoul which gives their firſt merit to mental exertions, cauſing him forcibly to feel the impropriety of wrong, and the turpitude of baſe actions. This in private life is freely acknowledged, and to deny it would be deemed a mark of ſenſeleſs ſtupidity: but in the public departments and political intercourſe of the ſtate, the caſuiſtry of intereſt attempts to confound the plain inferences of common ſenſe, to extenuate what cannot be denied, and to palliate what cannot be defended. The attempt, 'tis true, is made with fruitleſs diligence till the mind becomes ſo far perverted as to looſe all perception of a common intereſt, confining its ſordid views to ſelf alone: a degree of intellectual debaſement from which, we truſt, juſtneſs of thought and rectitude of underſtanding, will ever guard a man of ſuch acknowledged private worth as Mr. Maſon.

His

His voice is clear, ſtrong, diſtinct, and always audible, but without harſhneſs very deficient in melody, as in it a hiſſing tone predominates, which even his modulation of it, in general extremely well managed, can not effectually correct. His delivery at all times preſerves an evenneſs of temper that gives full impreſſion to the force of his language, which is uniformly maſculine and expreſſive, plain with purity, and correct with energy: more adapted to the tranſaction of buſineſs than the entertainment of the imagination, and more fitted to convince than to agitate. His manner is warm and ſpirited; but ſurely often too vehement and aſſuming, marking a careleſs confidence, and a negligent diſregard of oppoſition: and his action, which is not ungraceful, has a good deal of ſtrength.

In argument he can be cloſe and compact, or dilated and diffuſe, as beſt ſuits his purpoſe, and is indeed much rather an able debater than a fair reaſoner; the whole art of the ſophiſt being known to him, and he not unfrequently condeſcending to apply to it for aid. To the inadvertencies or miſtakes of his adverſaries he ſhews no mercy, expoſing them to ridicule with acuteneſs and ability; whilſt he diſplays with triumph what ſtrength he poſſeſſes, and gives to his arguments, which if not protected

tected by their force are at leaſt by their art, all the luſtre that can be reflected on them by a regular and judicious arrangement. Being a man of learning, and perfectly well acquainted with buſineſs, the matter of his ſpeeches is juſtly entitled to praiſe, for it is commonly ſolid, well ſelected, and appoſite; ſtrikingly elucidating the queſtion in debate, and deſerving more attention than it ſometimes receives. It is not the feeble production of imbecility, but the offspring of vigorous thought and mature reflection: it is not the bantling of fancy, tho' his fancy is lively, (for he is both an admirer and a good judge of poetry) but the child of judgment. Mr. Maſon is not only the friend, but the eager and ready partizan of all miniſters, however diſſonant their views, or diſcordant their plans, defending with equal promptitude the profuſion of one and the parſimony of another; ſtepping forth to the front of the battle in their defence, and hazarding all attacks in that ſacred cauſe with dauntleſs intrepidity. Such merit is never unrewarded.

GEORGE PONSONBY, Eſq.

SUPERIOR legal abilities and legal knowledge are the obvious qualifications requiſite to recommend to offices of truſt and emolument in the

the law departments of the ſtate: yet inſtances have occurred where family intereſt and family connections have proved ſufficient to ſupply their deficiency, exalting thoſe who without their aid would not have been very diſtinguiſhable from their fellows. Where no injury is done to patient merit or to ſuffering weakneſs, ſuch inſtances excite merely a momentary ſurpriſe, the affections of humanity not being intereſted in the caſe: but when they are once rouſed by any peculiar circumſtance of hardſhip, and the reward of tranſcendent merit can not be urged in its extenuation, that ſurpriſe is converted into indignation. Of the truth of this obſervation Mr. Ponſonby felt the force on his appointment to his preſent place of council to the Commiſſioners of the Revenue; and dear-bought experience will, we imagine, prevent him from again trying its power, be his intereſt ever ſo great or his connections ever ſo powerful.

As a public ſpeaker his voice is by no means oratorical, being indiſtinct, hollow, and inharmonious, neither having force to impreſs, nor ſweetneſs to pleaſe; and his delivery, deliberate if not ſlow, aſſumes all the meaſured pomp of ſolemn dignity. His language, tho' ſometimes tarniſhed, and, it may be, ſometimes enlivened by the peculiarities of the bar, is level and languid, yet copious, flowing with facility,

without

without agitating by the rapidity of its current, or entertaining by the ebullitions of fancy: and his manner is cold, phlegmatic, and drowſy, with more of the ſomnolency of ſome other profeſſions, than of the livelineſs of his own. His action, like moſt lawyers, (for the illuſtrious Burgh of ever-honoured memory is almoſt the only man we remember to have completely ſhaken off, in that reſpect, the trammels of the courts) is ungraceful and inexpreſſive, without energy to command, or elegance to captivate; but in argument he is often forcible, and only occaſionally feeble.

He reaſons with ability and cloſeneſs, ſeldom digreſſing, and that but for a ſhort time, and appears more intent on enforcing what he has conceived to be momentous, than anxious to anſwer, or ready to refute objections which he had not foreſeen. His arrangement is not unmethodical, but it wants that degree of clearneſs requiſite to ſhew each inference in its faireſt light, and hence ſome ſhades of obſcurity ſeem at times to involve them in the gloom of confuſion. His matter is of that ſpecies that readily occurs to a good underſtanding without the fatigue of deep thinking, or the labour of ſtudious reſearch: ſerving rather for the purpoſes of debate than the illuſtration of truth, its information is not very extenſive, nor its ſolidity very profound.

profound. It ſupports an argument with plauſibility, but has little of that ſtrength that compels conviction.——As Mr. Ponſonby holds a lucrative office under government, and his brother is one of the joint Poſtmaſters-General, he and his friends conſtantly co-operate with the miniſter of the day.

Sir EDWARD NEWENHAM, Knight.

HOWEVER eaſy it may ſeem in ſpeculation to diſtinguiſh between the determined partizan of party, and the PATRIOT, it has ever been found difficult in practice to diſcriminate them accurately; and men of the moſt unſuſpected integrity and worthieſt hearts, whilſt obviouſly labouring to ſupport the latter, have, perhaps unwittingly, deviated into the former character. For ſuch miſtakes of the head, not corruptions of the ſoul, every candid mind will readily find an apology: whilſt the ardour of oppoſition, the abhorrence of meaſures juſtly blameable, and, it may be, an honeſt but faulty prejudice againſt particular perſons, caſting a ſhade over their faireſt actions, will all quickly occur, and greatly extenuate the error which they pretend not to juſtify. Few repreſentatives have appeared in a more conſpicuous ſtation for

many

many years than Sir Edward Newenham, and he has attempted with undeviating aſſiduity to acquire the fame of patriotiſm, and to rival thoſe names rendered illuſtrious by its glory: ſhould he in his attempt at any time have tranſgreſſed thoſe bounds of moderation beyond which even virtue degenerates into vice, the ſincerity of his zeal pleads loudly in his defence, and the rectitude of his intentions ſanctifies his conduct.

In his parliamentary capacity, Sir Edward, it muſt be owned, has but few claims to the attention of the houſe; and of this he ſeems conſcious, ſeldom troubling it with his ſentiments, and then only for a ſhort ſpace. His voice is ſtrong and loud, and in general (owing to his deafneſs) he raiſes it without neceſſity much higher than he ought; but it has little variety of tones, and is devoid of depth or melody.

His delivery, tho' ſlow, is embarraſſed; and his language, which is ſometimes deficient in purity, and oftner in correctneſs, is plain and level; never catching at graces, nor aiming at elevation; but merely ſerving as the vehicle of his thoughts, and that not with much preciſion. His manner is intrepid, and perfectly accords with the vehemence of the ſentiments that he utters; which, it will be acknowledged, have more violence than ſtrength, and boldneſs than force.

force. In argument he is neither cloſe nor deſultory, neither compact nor diffuſe; for in fact he ſeldom attempts to argue, contenting himſelf in general with a bare expoſure of his opinions unſupported but by their inherent worth, regardleſs of the objections of others: and as to arrangement he entirely diſregards it, perhaps not deeming it neceſſary in ſuch conciſe harangues as his. His matter, which is not indeed of the firſt merit, is yet very far from deſpicable, as he it exceedingly well informed on various ſubjects; and on many different occaſions he has given the houſe much new and very uſeful information.

The ſentiments of his conſtituents, when known, have invariably directed his political conduct, and his behaviour in that reſpect, when contraſted with that of his Right Honourable Colleague, is uncommonly ſtriking: on other occaſions a decided oppoſition to the ſervants of the crown, has been the moſt prominent feature of his character.

Sir HERCULES LANGRISHE, Bart.

DESERTERS from the ſtandard of oppoſition, when duly enrolled under the banners of the court, are remarked to poſſeſs a promptitude of

of zeal, and an ardour of exertion ſuperior to thoſe who have early fought its cauſe, they uniting much of the renegado ſpirit to the uſual alacrity inſpired by the reception of rich rewards. Hence ſpeculative theoriſts deduce a reaſon why all miniſters, in this country, are ſo anxious to procure the aid of thoſe who have ariſen to eminence by combating againſt them; attaching them to their party at an expence greater than they are uſually wont to laviſh on thoſe who have borne in their ſervice the whole burden and heat of the day. Sir Hercules, indeed, has been ſo long addicted to the ſupport of adminiſtration, that the flame of his devotion might naturally, by this time, be ſuſpected of ſuffering ſome diminution, for he left tilling the unproductive waſte of oppoſition during the government of Lord Townſhend: but ſuch a ſuſpicion would do him great injuſtice, for he ſtill labours in his vocation with all the vehemence of the lateſt proſelyte, and all the eagerneſs of the neweſt convert.

His voice is ſtrong, articulate, and loud, but without any great variety of tones, and totally devoid of every note of melody; it overpowers by its force, but commands not by its energy: and his delivery, neither ſlow nor precipitate, ſeems to have been well ſtudied, and is judiciouſly managed. His language is generally good,

good, clear, maſculine, and nervous; not deficient in purity or correctneſs, it is often illumined by brilliant terms and illuſtrative metaphors, and without being ſo adorned as to deſerve the appellation of ornamented, is always well dreſſed: but it is much injured by a ſong-like pronunciation, alternately riſing and ſinking, which, though free from the vulgarity, has one of the moſt material defects of a provincial accent. His manner, either from the conſciouſneſs of the juſtice of his cauſe, or the ſtrength of his ſupport, is warm and ſpirited, bold and fearleſs, more fitted to intimidate the weak, than to conciliate the powerful: and his action, with abundance of ſtrength and force, is but little poliſhed by grace.

In argument, with much impoſing plauſibility and much apparent freedom of conceſſion, he is acute, artful, and inſidious, wielding at pleaſure and managing with ſkill all the weapons of debate, from the diffuſe laxity of rambling obſervation to the accuracy and cloſeneſs of juſt reaſoning. He ſometimes, alſo enlivens his arguments with ſallies of wit and flaſhes of fancy; not, perhaps, of that kind adapted to abide the judgment of the ſevere critic, but of that broad and popular ſpecies which Cicero recommends to the adoption of the forenſic ſpeaker. One mode of expreſſion he is remarkable for which is

highly reprehenſible, and that is frequent invocation of the name of the Deity; which, as Sir Hercules is well known for one of thoſe gentlemen whom the politeneſs of modern times has denominated free-thinkers, (for our anceſtors called them by a coarſer term) carries in him an air of ridicule, and whilſt it offends the ſerious, certainly little tends to amuſe the light.

The matter of his ſpeeches has many claims to regard, for he is a man of conſiderable information, not ignorant of claſſical learning, and well inſtructed in many branches of uſeful knowledge: hence it is inſtructive and important, not feeble or far-fetched, but ſtrong and appoſite. The impetuous violence with which it is obtruded, and his eager readineſs to defend holds that are clearly untenable, obſcure at times its genuine worth; but, in truth, its moſt general characters are ſolidity and weight, ſtrength and force.

PETER HOLMES, Eſq.

IN political parties to ſupport with temper and coolneſs thoſe principles which men have adopted, without fulſomely flattering or wantonly arraigning men or meaſures, and at the ſame time to leave no room to ſuſpect inſincerity

cerity of attachment, is a diſtinguiſhing character that belongs indeed to few. Nor can its rarity appear ſurpriſing to thoſe who reflect that it is a neceſſary conſequence of poſſeſſing a cool head and a warm heart, which has been juſtly remarked as perhaps the rareſt combination of mental qualities that is to be met with in the hiſtory of mankind. Mr. Holmes, who for many years has made a conſiderable figure in the Houſe of Commons, ſeems to us more truly deſerving of this praiſe than any public man we know; as his political life has been uniformly marked by a temperature of conduct, alike devoid of all indecent violence, and of all diſgraceful tergiverſation, and alike honourable to the rectitude of his judgment, and to the integrity of his heart.

His voice, though weak, and by no means commanding, is uncommonly pleaſing, being clear, articulate, and melodious, with great variety of tones, and all of them ſweet, riſing and falling with a gradation of ſounds imperceptibly melting into each other; and his management of it affords it every advantage that art can ſupply to aſſiſt its native feebleneſs. His language is pure, correct, and choſen; always neat, often elegant, and occaſionally ornamented with the pomp of ſplendid diction, and animated with the ſpirit of lively figures, it reflects luſtre on his

thoughts, and light on his conceptions; and his delivery is diſtinct, moderated, and meaſured, if inclining to either extreme, rather ſlow than quick. His action, never attempting force, generally aims at grace, but the aim is ſeldom ſo ſucceſsful as could be wiſhed, an embarraſſing conſtraint that pervades it viſibly deſtroying its effect: and his manner, without being deficient in ſpirit or vigour, is cool, and temperate, and inſinuating, adapted to ſteal on the affections, and never to offend the paſſions.

In argument he is ſtrong, pointed, and nervous, neither diffuſe in his reaſoning nor deſultory in his remarks; enforcing his ſentiments with energy and much apparent ſincerity, and ſometimes as ſkilfully eluding, as at others ingeniouſly anſwering the objections of his opponents. His reaſoning is not abſtruſe, obſcure, or involved, but plain, ſimple, and open: and his arrangement, without being eminently marked by methodical regularity or preciſe accuracy, is ſo clear as not to confuſe, and ſo luminous as not to obſcure his arguments. The matter of his ſpeeches is ever praiſe-worthy from its ſolidity and weight, from its momentous and inſtructive nature; being not, what is too commonly heard, the effuſion of preſuming ignorance or untutored impertinence, but the well-digeſted production of a manly mind, thoroughly informed in different

ferent branches of literature, and not unacquainted with public buſineſs: and whilſt it always inſtructs by the ſtrength of knowledge, it frequently amuſes by little ſtrokes of fancy, and modeſt ſallies of imagination.—In his parliamentary capacity, Mr. Holmes's humanity and attention to the diſtreſſed have invariably been conſpicuous; but in other reſpects, we ſhall only ſay, that he is a place-man, and poſſeſſes the place-man's firſt and laſt merit, an implicit devotion to the miniſters in being.

RICHARD GRIFFITH, Eſq.

TO guard the ſacred cauſe of civil liberty from the aſſaults of violence or the incurſions of chicane is a duty of ſuch magnitude as both calls for and warrants the warmeſt exertions and the moſt ſpirited efforts of every friend to the conſtitution. However neceſſary that duty is, and its neceſſity no words can exaggerate, it is no leſs honourable to the individual than beneficial to the ſtate, incircling his brows with an unfading wreath of glory, whoſe verdure neither time nor chance can diminiſh. But there are periods when the neceſſity of that duty and the honour of its diſcharge are tenfold increaſed: if, for inſtance, the aſſault, tho' violent in its proceſs, is covert

covert and treachetous in its pretext; if it is carried on under the ſemblance of protecting, not of injuring freedom; if it is uſed as an engine of puniſhment for ſenatorial integrity; if it is ſuggeſted, countenanced, or abetted by thoſe who ought to be the oracles of law, but who have ſometimes proved the cold-blooded aſſaſſins of liberty; in all ſuch caſes the imminence of the danger enhances the merit of the defence, and the peril of the conteſt illuſtrates the reputation of the ſucceſsful combatant. Mr. Griffith has been that combatant in a very trying ſituation, in one not very diſſimilar to the moſt dangerous we have imagined: and in addition to the conſcious approbation of his own mind, the firſt recompence of virtue, he has juſtly received the ennobling reward of public gratitude.

As a parliamentary ſpeaker his voice is clear, ſtrong, and diſtinct; poſſeſſing great variety without much harmony of tones, it is more fitted to enforce with energy than to melt with ſupplication: and his management of it is in general ſkilful, and but accidentally injudicious, as he only at times raiſes it to a moſt diſcordant pitch. His language is lively, nervous, and animated, forcibly expreſſing the vigour of his conceptions; more pure than correct, and without diſdaining the aid of ornament, rather neatly plain than ela-

elaborately elegant: and his delivery is rapid and vehement, perhaps with a degree of precipitancy that requires correction. His manner is warm, ſpirited, and even impetuous, influenced it may be, by his temper, which ſeems to have a full portion of Welch iraſcibility; and by throwing him off his guard, it frequently expoſes him to a petulance of attack which he is much better qualified to conteſt than to ſilence: and his action, with ſome grace, has much fire, force, and energy, being excellently adapted to his manner, and by no means diſcordant from his language.

In debating he reaſons with ability, accuracy, and ſtrength, clearly comprehending and at once ſeizing on the deciſive circumſtances of the queſtion before him, without adverting to its minuter parts; but with little digreſſion, he is rather diffuſe than condenſed, and appears more anxious to dilate his thoughts than to reſtrain their exuberance. His arrangement, though not the moſt regular or methodical, is far from faulty: it is not laboured or artificial, but eaſy, natural, and unconfuſed, apparently the conſequence of unclouded perception, not of logical knowledge or ſtudious care. In matter he abounds, and that of the beſt kind; neither weak, nor looſe, nor trifling, but ſolid with extent, and important with inſtruction; intimately united

united with the very eſſence of the ſubject, and powerfully tending to its elucidation. In all matters relative to trade, commerce, or revenue, his information is extenſive and his judgment ſagacious: and he has appeared with credit as a political writer, and that on a ſubject where his humanity was as conſpicuous as his arguments were concluſive. In parliament, Mr. Griffith has ever been one of the foremoſt in ſupporting every ſcheme of public utility or national improvement, earneſt and ſtrenuous in the defence of conſtitutional liberty and the rights of the people, and but ſeldom has favoured miniſters with his countenance or vote.

CORNELIUS BOLTON, Eſq.

WHEN irreproachable integrity and ſtrict propriety of conduct are the foundations of conſtituents attachment to their repreſentative, the connection is not more honourable than it is commonly indiſſoluble. For ſtupidity itſelf muſt know that theſe are not the qualities of every candidate, and folly only would change where even chance could not improve your condition. The influence of party and corporation intereſt, both of which are more callous than ſtupidity and

and more blind than folly, do indeed ſometimes overpower the plaineſt inferences of common ſenſe, and diſſolve thoſe bonds which reaſon would cement and reflection ſtrengthen: but, they who are uncontaminated with the epidemical madneſs feel it their duty to attempt the relief of what they could not obſtruct, and the alleviation of what they could not prevent.—Though deprived of the repreſentation of ſuch a man as we have mentioned he forfeits not their affections, but they labour to aſſiſt his ſucceſs elſewhere, that they may enjoy the benefit of his being their virtual, if not their nominal, repreſentative. Hence a laudable emulation of ſentiment is kept up, and the warmth of gratitude on the one ſide correſponds to the ſincerity of regard on the other. Of this Mr. Bolton is a remarkable inſtance, whoſe approved honeſty and undeviating rectitude of public life claimed every return of attachment from the citizens of Waterford; but, though defeated at the laſt election there, he ſoon amply experienced that a moſt reſpectable part of its inhabitants entertained a due ſenſe of his merits, and a juſt eſteem for his worth.

As a public ſpeaker his voice, though not ſtrong, is diſtinct and well toned, and without much extent not deficient in harmony; ſcarcely powerful enough for a large aſſembly, it is more adapted

adapted to the key of private converſation than to the pitch of parliamentary debate: but he manages it with judgment and ſkill, by which it is highly aided. His language is plain, pure, and correct, ſimple with neatneſs, and ſpirited without elevation, never affecting any ornament, but never careleſsly neglecting due ſelection: and his delivery is judicious, neither precipitate nor languid, but temperate. His manner, in general calm and ſedate, free from all violence and impetuoſity, is at times warm, and animated, and forcible, properly varied with the occaſion: and his action, which is indeed very ſparingly uſed, is when uſed eaſy and expreſſive, devoid of awkwardneſs, tho' not ſtrongly marked by grace or force.

In argument he is remarkably able, being cloſe, ſevere, accurate, and acute, keen without ſeverity, and profound without dulneſs; never wantoning in the flowery field of digreſſion, but adhering rigorouſly to the ſubject, and reaſoning with juſtice and energy: and his arrangement is exact, clear, and methodical, for he has not forgotten that acquaintance which logic afforded him by his excellent education. The matter of his ſpeeches is uniformly good, for he is a man of real knowledge, having drank deep at its fountain-head, not quaffed ſome draughts from its puny rills. He delivers not to the houſe the

random

random obſervations of preſuming pertneſs, nor the ſlight productions of (what is called) ſummer reading, but arguments ſolid, appoſite, and momentous, well ſelected and homely applied, clearly convincing the underſtanding without, perhaps, much amuſing the fancy. In parliament, Mr. Bolton has laudably endeavoured, particularly in the corn buſineſs, to ſerve the community, and has moſtly ſupported the character of an independent country gentleman, too candid to oppoſe from prejudice, and too honeſt to comply from venality: but of late, and that on ſome queſtions that really ſurpriſed us, he ſeemed decidedly inclined to comply with the deſires of the miniſter.

ROBERT JEPHSON, Eſq.

THOSE qualities that ſet the table in a roar, and procure to their poſſeſſor an unbounded freedom of acceſs and intimacy of intercourſe with the great and elevated, are ſeldom of ſuch a nature as are adapted to conciliate regard. Flaſhes of wit and flights of fancy are not what all underſtand; but mimickry of perſonal defects, and ridicule of perſonal peculiarities, are equally accordant with the conceptions, and ſuited to the taſte of the great vulgar, and the ſmall

ſmall. They require no exertion of genius, and but little obſervation of life: and though moſtly concealed under the impoſing maſk of feſtive pleaſantry, they give the deepeſt wounds to ſenſibility, and are often practiſed to ſtab ſuperior merit, and to depreciate tranſcendent worth; being as deteſtable in their motive as deſpicable in their exhibition. In fact, when leaſt liable to cenſure they appertain much more to the buffoon than to the wit, and are rather fitted to raiſe the broad laugh of Plautus than the correct ſmile of Terence. Mr. Jephſon is confeſſedly poſſeſſed of extenſive powers of convivial entertainment, but as he is a dramatic poet, and an author of reputation, we ſuppoſe that the ſame delicacy of ſentiment and juſtneſs of taſte which diſtinguiſh his productions effectually prevent in him the ſlighteſt tendency to ſuch a character as we have alluded to; which, though poſſibly at the moment amuſing, can never be held in any high degree of eſtimation.

As a member of the Houſe of Commons, in which ſtation much was at firſt expected from him, and but little indeed has been performed —his voice is excellent, clear, diſtinct, ſonorous, and harmonious, extenſive in compaſs, various in tones, and in all its gradations from its higheſt pitch to its deepeſt note melodiouſly attuned; but with all its merits, and they are undoubtedly great

great, it certainly poſſeſſes not the power of giving ſtrength to weakneſs, or meaning to inſipidity. His management of it is ſkilful and judicious, deliberately weighed, and carefully attended to; ſhewing its advantages in the faireſt light, and modulating its ſounds in a maſterly manner. His language is deſervedly intitled to praiſe, as it is correct, pure, ſpirited, and nervous, uniting in a juſt proportion elegance with energy, and politeneſs of phraſe with ſtrength of expreſſion: often graced with the ornament of poliſhed figures, and enlivened with the fire of ardent terms, but ſtill ſtrictly proſaick, nor ever deviating into poetry: and his delivery, in general free from all extremes, is moderate and temperate, always devoid of precipitancy, but never from ſolemnity dull. His manner, with a due degree of confidence, is not preſuming; it is animated and rather warm, but with conſtant diligence reſtrained within proper bounds: and his action is eaſy, graceful, and ſometimes ſtrong, and not in the leaſt theatrical, which might be ſuſpected, as he is an admirable actor in private plays.

In his arguments, we in vain look for that ſtrength and force which ſome of his writings have ſhewn, for they are weak, feeble, and languid; and whilſt he flutters and flounders on the margin of the ſubject, he neither comprehends it exten-

extenſively, attacks it manfully, nor combats it deciſively; and his obſervations, however warm in language, are frigid in ſentiment, and however ſparkling in terms, are vapid in conception. His arrangement is indeed exact and accurate, elaborately formed to aſſiſt his reaſoning, and give it all the aid of a luminous order: but his matter, from ſome almoſt unaccountable cauſe, is mean and meagre, and flimſy. He certainly is a man of reading, and poſſeſſes a lively imagination; but yet, either from indolent negligence, or careleſs inattention, or a ſupercilious dependence on his inherent reſources which the event by no means juſtifies, the matter of his ſpeeches is commonly as poor, ſhallow, inconcluſive, and deſpicable as the humbleſt of thoſe on whom he looks down with contempt. In his parliamentary capacity, as he holds both a place and a penſion under government, and is brought into the houſe by the influence of miniſters; he is their willing and devoted adherent, prepared for every ſervice; but ſeldom employed, ſave to vote, from the little ſucceſs of his efforts.

Right Hon. JOHN HELY HUTCHINSON.

TO riſe from the middle rank of life to fame and to fortune, to high dignity and to exalted

alted ſtation, by the exertion of conſpicuous talents and ſuperior abilities, is a diſtinction highly honourable and meritorious, enjoyed but by few, however aimed at by many. Elevation is truly pleaſing when the aſcent to it has been facilitated by the labours of genius, and when conſcious worth ennobles thoſe toils that a laudable ambition had inſpired. Such was the fate of ſome of the moſt reſpected names of the ancient world, who, unaided by the blazonry of illuſtrious anceſtry or the powerful ſupport of family connections, raiſed themſelves to the firſt rank in their reſpective ſtates, by the ſole force of their own deſert. Demoſthenes and Cicero need but be mentioned as inſtances; and they are inſtances alike ſtrong and ſtriking. Remarkably different as the conſtitution of our government is from the republics wherein they flouriſhed, yet ſtill the ſame path to reputation, to opulence, and to honours, which they trod, is open; and the modern orator, eminent at the bar and in the ſenate, commands the iſſues of ſucceſs, and fixes at pleaſure the fortunes of his houſe. Mr. Hutchinſon has, indeed, in a high degree experienced how extenſive are the rewards, and how elevated the ſtations, that ſuch a man can procure, and has juſt reaſon to congratulate himſelf on the ſucceſs of his endeavours.

His

His voice is very pleaſing, clear, articulate, and melodious, at all times diſtinctly audible, having an extenſive compaſs, with no ſmall variety of tones, and in all its variations never failing in harmony; and his management of it is highly judicious, well adapted to diſplay its utmoſt excellence, and to ſupply any deficiency to which it is expoſed. His language is neat, ſmooth, flowing, and copious, correct with purity, and elegant without affectation; ſeldom animated by warm expreſſions or glowing terms, and never elevated by the pomp and ſplendour of figurative diction; but abounding in what Warburton calls *verbage*, with, perhaps, ſome want of energy and force; though we remember it to have been on certain occaſions bitterly ſevere and cuttingly ſarcaſtic. His delivery, without being ſlow, is deliberate; never by any ardour of debate hurried into rapidity, nor ever by inattention ſinking into langour. His manner is cool, perhaps cold, ſtately, and dignified, influenced, it may be, by length of years and elevation of rank; more ſuited to the lecturer than the haranguer, and more conſonant to the dignity of inculcation than to the ſprightly livelineſs of public ſpeaking: and his action, of which indeed he uſes very little, is neither ſtiff nor awkward; it is not graceful or forcible, but ſimple and eaſy, and ſometimes expreſſive.

In

In argument he is diffuſe, dilated, and comprehenſive, enlarging and expanding every thought to its full extent, and never aiming to contract into body what ſhews ſo well in ſurface. With much ſeeming candour and liberality he reaſons with accuracy and acuteneſs, advancing with care and retreating with caution; and is peculiarly happy in expoſing the imaginary or ill-grounded ſuſpicions, as well as the inconſiderate credulity of his opponents. No man can ſpeak more entertainingly or copiouſly on nothing, raiſing at will phantoms to combat, and ſpectres to deſtroy; and from this circumſtance in his character, the prejudice of party affixed to him a ludicrous appellation, by which he is well known. His arguments are greatly aided by his arrangement, which is exact, regular, and methodical, reflecting light throughout the whole concatenation of his ideas, and whilſt it is artfully formed, that art is ſtudiouſly concealed.

Being a man of knowledge and information, acquainted with the law, not ignorant of the ſciences, and deeply converſant in claſſical, polite, and uſeful literature, the matter of his ſpeeches is abundant, ſolid, appoſite, and well ſelected, intimately connected, not remotely allied to the ſubject, replete with good ſenſe, and inſtructive with preciſion; but ſometimes liable

to the imputation of weakneſs, and that the more apparent from its general ſtrength. As a political writer he poſſeſſes merit, and has ſupported with his pen, at leaſt with ſubtlety, thoſe opinions which he had before enforced by the exertions of his eloquence. Enjoying great emoluments and conſiderable places under government, he is ever its ready and warm defender, and (in our opinion) is one of the moſt plauſible and ſkilful advocates of adminiſtration: in other caſes, where that predominant influence is removed, he ſeems well diſpoſed to the cauſe of general liberty, guarding it from injury with attention, watchful to the preſervation of chartered rights, anxious to promote the commercial intereſts of the nation, *eſpecially* of the city of Cork, and an able member of the houſe of commons, reſpectable from his rank, his abilities, and his attainments.

Hon. RICHARD ANNESLEY.

THE tool of a party is never a reſpectable character, for in ſuch a total dereliction of principle and an implicit ſubmiſſion to direction are uniformly required: circumſtances that truly debaſe whilſt they may ſeem exteriorly to exalt. Yet we often ſee perſons, whoſe inherent conſequence

quence in any department of life would not have raiſed them into high eſtimation, elevated by them to ſtations of rank and authority: and even the proper application (as it has been called) of the powers of a ſheriff at an election has been known ſtrongly to conciliate the favour of a petty dictator, and to enſure the influence of a political Baſhaw. Mr. Anneſley's connection with a great Northern Earl, whoſe power and intereſt have been exerted to the utmoſt to ſerve him and his family, is cemented, we are ſatisfied, by more reputable bonds, and friendſhip on the one ſide is only followed by gratitude on the other; for, could it be ſuppoſed otherwiſe, it would be as diſgraceful to the noble Lord as humiliating to the honourable Commoner.

In his parliamentary exhibitions, Mr. Anneſley is but little befriended by his voice, as it is feeble, indiſtinct, confined, and unharmonious, with a childiſhneſs of tone uncommon and offenſive; whilſt his management of it is very defective in that art that would conceal its deficiencies, and meliorate its harſhneſs. Variety is the moſt ſtriking characteriſtic of his delivery, as he frequently paſſes, with a very ſudden tranſition, from the extreme of an embarriſſing rapidity to the ſleepy langour of monotonical preaching: and his manner has much

vehemence without fire, and much impetuoſity without force.

His language is plain, ſimple, and unadorned, neither copious in terms nor abundant in phraſes; as deſtitute of dignity to command as of elegance to captivate, it ſerves merely to convey not to embelliſh his thoughts, ſinking too much from the ſolemnity of debate into the familiarity of converſation: and it is obvious that purity and correctneſs are ſeldom the attendants on careleſſneſs of choice and negligence of ſelection. His action much reſembles that of the Bar pleader, for the law was his original profeſſion, and therefore alike fails in grace and ſtrength. In reaſoning he is acute, argumentative, and by no means weak; in general adhering cloſely to the queſtion with more perſeverance than abler ſpeakers; and though at times he is both deſultory and diffuſive, there appears art in his digreſſions and deſign in his wanderings; for ſophiſtry he knows and can practice.

The arrangement of his thoughts poſſeſſes merit, as it is clear, and regular, and methodical, neither involved in obſcurity by affected abſtruſeneſs, nor confuſed by muddineſs of conception—and his matter is moſtly ſtrong, and but ſeldom deſpicable. As he is a man of information, though certainly not the firſt in the

firſt

firſt claſs in that reſpect, when he ſpeaks on ſubjects with which he is acquainted he is inſtructive and well worthy of attention: but either the *ignis fatuus* of miſtaken ambition or the command of his leader ſometimes urges him to the conteſt when he is totally unprepared for the field, and he is expoſed unarmed to a combat, wherein Milton's panoply would ſcarcely prove a defence. The conſequence need not be told. As a Commiſſioner of the Revenue, the nephew of Lord Tyrone, and the friend of Lord Hillſborough, Mr. Anneſley is an invariable ſupporter of adminiſtration.

Sir FRANCIS HUTCHINSON, Bart.

HONESTY of intention, though it ought undoubtedly to form the ground-work of a public character, is yet not the only quality that conſtitutes its worth; for there are others as eſſential in their nature and as rare in their exiſtence. It is a neceſſary, and we will allow, even an indiſpenſable requiſite in the conſtitution of a virtuous repreſentative: but ſtill we have known ambition, vanity, and the luſt of popular applauſe to compenſate for its want, producing advantages to the community and benefits

fits to the public, as great as could be hoped for from the utmoſt exertion of its powers. Clearneſs of intellect, together with a liberal and comprehenſive mind, are qualifications as requiſite to the due diſcharge of his duty; and their deficiency, ſhould they be defective, is neither ſo eaſily ſupplied nor ſo obviouſly remedied: they may be added by advice, but that advice may deceive; they may be aſſiſted by inſtruction, but that inſtruction may be fallacious. Sir Francis Hutchinſon we believe to be an honeſt, and (what is more uncommon at the preſent day) a conſcientious man: whether he is equally remarkable for the other qualities we have mentioned, it might be deemed preſumption in us to decide. The public will judge.

His voice is peculiarly ill ſuited to a parliamentary ſpeaker, as it is low, feeble, thin, and not very diſtinct; without harmony to atone for weakneſs, or clearneſs to make up for melody, it is often ſcarcely audible; and his management of it, poſſibly from want of attention, is but little adapted to remedy its defects. His language is plain, level, and unadorned, never ſoaring beyond the limits of humble converſation, or aiming at the grace of elegance, or the ſplendour of elevation; ſimple in its conſtruction, and not deſtitute of purity and correctneſs, though aſſuredly they form not its moſt pro-

prominent features; and his delivery is languid and phlegmatic, ſlow without ſolemnity, and ſometimes precipitate without energy.

His manner is cold and inanimate, neither formed forcibly to impreſs nor graciouſly to captivate, repelling inſtead of attracting attention: and what action he uſes were much better avoided, as it is equally deficient in grace and in vigour. In argument he reaſons with ſtrength, preciſion, and ſome ability, adhering to the object immediately before him with perſeverance, and either enforcing his own ſentiments or attacking thoſe of others with cloſeneſs and accuracy. Digreſſion he avoids with care, and he is in no danger of being led aſtray by the phantoms of imagination.

His arrangement is in general very good, being clear, regular, and methodical, ſtrikingly illuſtrating his thoughts, and placing them in the moſt advantageous poſition: and the matter of his ſpeeches is moſtly ſuch as enforces attention and ſecures regard. As he is a ſenſible and well informed man, it is always pertinent, and often inſtructive; but, perhaps, ſomewhat tarniſhed and debaſed by narrowneſs of conception, by partial prejudices, and by miſapprehenſion ariſing from a want of a clear and diſtinct view of his ſubject. In the Houſe of Commons he ſupports with credit the character of an independent member, who acts according

cording to the impulſe of his reaſon, and not in ſubſerviency to the dictates of a miniſter, or the influence of a party: and much to his honour, he on a recent occaſion laboured aſſiduouſly to bring forward and carry a bill to make proviſion for the widows and orphans of clergymen; which the folly of one part, and the knavery of another part of that reverend body moſt abſurdly and injuriouſly found the means of defeating in the Upper Houſe.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN BLAQUIERE, K. B.

THE efficient miniſter of a Lord Lieutenant is commonly conſidered as the tranſient enjoyer of an official department, unconnected with the country, and only concerned to execute with punctuality the orders he has received. The permanent proſperity of the nation is with him but a ſecondary object; whilſt the temporary eaſe and convenience of his maſter's government is his aim, and the ſplendour or emolument of his own adminiſtration is his end. But ſhould a ſecretary determine to reſide in that kingdom, to which he had come but as a gueſt of ſhort continuance; ſhould he have formed there the deareſt and tendereſt connexions; and ſhould he have acquired by their means conſiderable

able and extenſive property, he is impelled by the moſt powerful motives to a decided regard for the laſting welfare of the country, and cogently induced to give to the ſtatesman a ſtrong colouring of the character of the citizen.

Sir John Blaquiere is the only ſecretary we remember to have reſided here after the termination of his miniſterial office, and though doubtleſs during its continuance ſome exceptionable meaſures were introduced and carried, yet one boon was offered to the acceptance of Iriſhmen, of ſuch magnitude and importance, as would have fully compenſated for many faults, and which nothing but the moſt unaccountable caprice or undue private influence cauſed to be rejected. The TAX ON ABSENTEES, that eminent feature of his adminiſtration, evinced a ſedulous attention to the trueſt intereſt of the nation and a ſincere deſire to promote it. Without a moſt fortuitous concurrence of accidents, it will never again be offered to our option; but the offer juſtly entitles Sir John to the meed of public gratitude.

In his public ſpeaking he is but poorly aſſiſted by his voice, which is weak, thin, and low, not entirely deſtitute of harmony in ſeveral of its tones, but ſometimes ſcarcely audible, and never powerful or commanding: and his management of it, though directed with art and ſkill to correct its defects, is ſeldom able to effectuate its pur-

purpoſe. His language is moſtly well choſen, and frequently diſtinguiſhed by a new and ſingularly happy application: more pure than correct, more forcible than beautiful. If it ſometimes wants elegance, and ſometimes ſtrict propriety, it is ſeldom deficient in ſtrength, and is oftener than might be expected enlivened and animated with lively figures and deſcriptive metaphors: but his delivery ſtrangely counteracts the warmth of his expreſſions, as it is cold and languid, and phlegmatic, ſlow even to heavineſs, and deliberate even to drawling. His manner, with great ſeeming deference and great apparent reſpect, is neither timid nor embarraſſed: rather mild and inſinuating than obtruſive or boiſterous, it is more fitted to ſteal on the affections by the windings of artful addreſs, than to overpower them by the impulſe of its energy.

His action is very faulty, we ſuppoſe more from want of attention than from inability of execution, being neither recommended by elegance nor force; and he has contracted a mode of twiſting and writhing his body into a tortuoſity of ſhape painful to look at, and perfectly inconſiſtent with every idea of grace. In argument he is diffuſe, copious, and comprehenſive, more ſolicitous to dilate than to condenſe his ſentiments, and more afraid of leaving any thing unnoticed, than of abounding to luxuriance;

but

but with all his expanſion not feeble or flimſy, accurate in deduction, and ſtrong in reaſoning; with, perhaps, at times ſome little portion of the artful diſputant's craft. His arrangement is good, and manifeſtly compoſed with care, the parts being ſufficiently regular and properly dependant without the formality of avowed diviſion, or the logical nicety of ſcholaſtic order.

As he inherits from nature a maſculine underſtanding and ſound good ſenſe, and has taken pains to ſtore his mind with no ſmall fund of uſeful and various knowledge, the matter of his ſpeeches has real merit, being pregnant with inſtruction, and weighty with information; not heedleſsly gleaned or negligently produced, but ſelected with judgment and propoſed with ability. Since he ceaſed to be a miniſter, though poſſibly, too compliant in general with the wiſhes of his ſucceſſors in office, he has in a variety of inſtances manifeſted a warm inclination to promote the trade, to improve the manufactures, and to advance the agriculture of Ireland: but he ſeems more tenacious of the perſonal property than the perſonal liberty of the People, and more anxious to render their ſituation comfortable than to guard them from the incurſions of overweening authority.

Lieut.

Lieut. Colonel RICHARD St. GEORGE.

WHEN a character is diſtinguiſhed by the amiable qualities of humanity, benevolence, friendſhip, and liberality, thoſe *leniores animæ virtutes*, as Cicero calls them, their natural and neceſſary effect is to captivate the affections of mankind: but when they are united with the dignity of courage and that magnanimity of ſoul that delights in ſpirited enterprizes, and aſpires to fame by ſplendid actions, uſeful to the ſtate, that affection is accompanied with reſpect and veneration, which the lapſe of time only increaſes.

But ſhould, in ſcenes of war and deſolation, of ſlaughter and carnage, the liberality of ſuch a man be unbounded in the relief of diſtreſs, in wiping away the tears of affliction, and aiding humble merit, and that without any regard or fear of perſonal inconvenience, he ſeems little leſs than a beneficent Angel commiſſioned to lighten the ſufferings of ſorrow, and to diminiſh the weight of thoſe calamities that he could not prevent. Such humane generoſity ſheds a luſtre conſpicuous and laſting around his name, in the effulgence of whoſe glory all his errors, if errors he ſhould chance at any time to fall into, are totally obſcured, appearing leſs obvious than ſpots on the ſurface of the Sun: and its remembrance ſmooths the pillow of ſickneſs, and whiſ-

pers

pers unutterable tidings of heart-felt conſolation to the frame debilitated by diſeaſe. Colonel St. George's private deſerts are fully known to a numerous circle who are juſtly attached to him by his ſuperior merits; and his conduct in America, during the laſt unfortunate war, is unknown to few. Equally honourable to the ſoldier and the man it was truly dignifying; but not more ſo than might have been expected from the elevation of his ſentiments and the goodneſs of his heart.

In the Houſe of Commons he ſeldom ſpeaks, but whenever he does it is with ſenſe and intelligence. A too great modeſty, and diffidence, for which there is no reaſon, depreſs his voice much below its natural pitch, but it is ſtill diſtinct, and in its tones perfectly pleaſing. His language is plain, level, and unadorned, but correct with purity, and ſome elegance; rather animated than cold, but not aiming at elevation: and his delivery, though ſomewhat injured by a too apparent timidity, is judiciouſly regulated. His manner is very conciliating, formed of a due mixture of moderated ſpirit and chaſtiſed warmth, and the little action he uſes is not deſtitute of ſtrength, but is rather more marked by grace.

In argument he deviates not from the queſtion into foreign matter, but treats it openly and can-

candidly, without artifice or chicane, and a viſible honeſty of intention pervades it that is impoſing: whilſt his arrangement, which indeed is not very ſtrict or exact, is tolerably regular; that it is not confuſed is more owing to his clearneſs of conception than to the aſſiſtance of art. The matter of his ſpeeches is good, for he is a man whoſe mind was early ſtored with knowledge, having not only a polite but a claſſical education. Neither glaring nor dazzling, it is ſolid without ſhew, and ſtrong without oſtentation: not adapted to attract the curioſity and amuſe the imaginations of the light and the vain, but to ſatisfy the judgment of the attentive by the effuſions of good ſenſe. Since Colonel St. George has been in parliament he has conſtantly ſupported adminiſtration; but in national meaſures of a doubtful complexion, however he might be miſtaken as to their tendency, we are fully convinced that his intention, as his heart, was honeſt.

Sir BOYLE ROCHE, Bart.

TO ſpeak with eaſe and elegance his native language has ever been deemed one of the moſt indiſpenſable requiſites in the public declaimer, without which ability was fruitleſs, and underſtanding obſcured: and ſome of the moſt cele-

celebrated orators of antiquity, ſuch as the Grachi and Julius Cæſar, derived no ſmall ſhare of their fame from their ſuperior excellence in that reſpect, due to the early cares of a venerable parent, and are ſaid to have been educated *non tam in gremio quam in ſermone matris.* Whether Sir Boyle aſpires to emulate ſuch noted names in the region of eloquence we preſume not to determine: but aſſuredly, if he does, he has as much to unlearn as he has to acquire. Indeed in that character which he obviouſly ſeems to wiſh to ſupport, the character (now almoſt exploded) of a blunt blundering Iriſh ſoldier and true old Mileſian, oratory formed not an eſſential part; for they were wont to excel, not in words but in action. Yet as the Knight has frequently diſplayed his abilities as a public ſpeaker, as ſuch we ſhall endeavour to ſketch his portrait.

His voice is clear and diſtinct enough, but diſagreeable and grating to the ear; without harmony or ſweetneſs, it has a wirey tone offenſive to the ſenſe: and his pronunciation is diſgraced by the moſt glaring fault a gentleman's can have. It is not a provincial accent, it is not an affected liſp, it is not a broad vulgarity—but it is what an eminent and worthy divine (now no more) with ſpirit and humour, was wont to call, ' a fineering of the brogue.' His language is neither ſimple, correct, nor pure; ſeem-

ſeemingly the ſpontaneous production of the moment, though conceived with eaſe, yet delivered with difficulty: in a high degree quaint, and plentifully *ornamented* with that flower of rhetoric which our Engliſh friends have denominated a Bull.

His action, which aims not at grace, has indeed ſometimes force and ſtrength; and his manner is ſpirited, warm and vehement, with much of the eager partizan and little of the deliberating ſenator; and it is well known that his fire evaporates not in ſmoke, as he is undoubtedly a man of approved courage. In reaſoning he exhibits much dry humour blended with ſome archneſs, and is not deſtitute of point, nor of keen and ſarcaſtical alluſion, but we cannot ſay that we have been much ſtruck with the power of his arguments or the energy of his deductions; and in them we fruitleſsly ſeek for that luminous order and methodical diſpoſition that add weight to truth, and force to ſentiment. Deſultory in the extreme, they are embarraſſed and involved in inexplicable confuſion; they are a chaos over which no brooding ſpirit has ſpread its wings to reduce the maſs into order.

His matter is of that obvious and common ſort that occurs at once, requiring no deep thought or laboured ſearch to find it, but floats on the ſurface to bleſs the firſt occupant, but is ſometimes marked by ſenſe,

and

and ſometimes by obſervation; or to borrow the words of the elegant poet—

" His matter, now to ſenſe, now nonſenſe leaning,
" Means not, but blunders round about a meaning."

—Yet we muſt allow it to poſſeſs ſome *extraordinary* merit, for no member is more attended to than Sir Boyle—but that, perhaps, may ariſe from his never offending and always *entertaining* the Houſe. Graced with a title by the court, and holding a place there, he ſtrenuouſly contends for every meaſure that adminiſtration chooſes to ſupport.

Right Hon. JOHN FOSTER, Speaker.

THE ſtation of Speaker of the Houſe of Commons is ſo conſpicuous and ſo honourable that it cannot be ſurpriſing to find it a favourite object of ambition. Here it has ſometimes been attained by the weak and the worthleſs, through the predominance of party and the prevalence of family intereſt; and ſometimes been the reward of genius and of merit, made known by public benefits and approved by public ſervices. A more dignified ſtation, if procured without any proſtitution of principle or any humiliating meanneſs, no man indeed can deſire: when the

means of its attainment are worthy, they ſhed freſh luſtre on the ſplendour of elevation, and create a new pulſe of joy in the heart on its acquiſition. But genius and merit, though moſtly at length ſure of prevailing, in order to accellerate the poſſeſſion of the ohject which they purſue by the aid of court influence, have been known to deſcend from their dignity, and to adulterate the ſterling value of real benefits conferred on the community by the baſe alloy of miniſterial ſubſerviency and indefenſible compliances.

In ſuch caſes it is difficult to eſtimate the character of the individual without being liable to the imputation of flattery or malevolence. For it is clearly alike reprehenſible to damn with faint praiſe, or to celebrate with unqualified panegyric; and yet, perhaps, not very eaſy to hold the balance of appretiation with a ſteady hand. Few perſons in this country have been more the object of public obſervation for a ſeries of years than Mr. Foſter, nor has any man's conduct been more ſtrongly marked. Whether in him a ſpirited and manly endeavour to ſupport, to protect, and to improve the nation has not been contaminated by a too ready obedience to the orders of ſecretaries, from the *ſagacious* Heron to the inſidious Orde, as a means of facilitating his progreſs to his preſent exaltation, it might be deemed preſumption in us to determine.

mine. The people of Ireland ſhall determine for us.

As a parliamentary ſpeaker his voice is articulate, audible, and ſufficiently ſtrong; but with a ſharpneſs of tone by no means pleaſing, if not grating to the ear, it is alike deficient in harmony and melody. Whilſt it utters the accents of reaſon and of knowledge, it will be liſtened to without offence, but will never attract attention by its inherent ſweetneſs. His management of it is indeed judicious, and greatly tends to counteract its predominant failing, curbing each exceſs that would encreaſe its aſperity, and often modulating it with ſingular ſkill. His language is plain, even, and unadorned, but yet forcible and nervous; ſeldom remarkable for elegance, but never failing in purity, in propriety, or in ſtrength. All ornament of phraſe and ſtatelineſs of diction, all the pomp and parade of figures and metaphors, he not only abſtains from ſeeking, but ſtudiouſly avoids, reſtraining with care the eſſays of an imagination by no means deſtitute of vigour; and ſeems anxious to appear rather a ſenſible reaſoner than a ſublime orator. His delivery is juſt, accurate, and well conſidered, never hurried by precipitation nor enervated by langour; but proceeding with that moderated warmth that becomes the earneſt, yet not vehement ſpeaker.

His manner pleaſes by its ſpirit and animation, and though poſſibly in many of his latter exhibitions, before he was elected ſpeaker, ſomewhat too overbearing and imperious, is generally correct, and conſiderately formed: though he moſtly led on to the conteſt the embattled phalanx of the courr, never offending by arrogance, and certainly never encouraging attacks by any ſhadow of timidity. His action, more eminent for energy than grace, is ſtrong and expreſſive, pointedly enforcing the weight of his ſentiments: not ſtudied and laboured with minute attention to diſplay elegance of attitudes, but ſpontaneouſly flowing from the impulſe of preſent feeling.

In argument he is uncommonly able, being ſtrict, exact, cloſe, yet comprehenſive; varying his mode as the ſubject requires, and in each variation appearing to advantage. He ſeizes with peculiar felicity on the moſt intereſting facts and circumſtances, and diſplays them with the utmoſt force of cultivated reaſon, and ſometimes with all the cunning of ſophiſticated art.—Well acquainted with the whole myſtery of debate, and not averſe from calling in the aid of perverted logic to ſupport his cauſe, though the conteſt is ſullied by the ally, he frequently involves his opponents in an inextricable maze of complicated reaſoning, which often, like the Gordian knot, cannot be diſentangled, but muſt be ſet aſunder.

His

His arrangement is invariably excellent, regular, accurate, and clear, placing his thoughts in the moſt favourable point of view, and obviouſly the effect of preciſe conception and methodical ſcience.

Of the matter of his ſpeeches it is not eaſy to ſpeak in terms ſuch as it deſerves, as it is in the higheſt degree praiſe-worthy; important, inſtructive, ſolid, and moſtly convincing: nor is this extraordinary, for we have no heſitation in ſaying that we conſider him as the beſt informed man in the houſe. His knowledge is wonderfully extenſive: and whether in finance, revenue, trade, commerce, legiſlation, or policy, it is not merely the outline or ſketch of the ſubject of which he ſeems maſter, but of its whole detail and the verieſt minutiæ of its parts. To his wiſe and ſpirited meaſure of procuring a protecting duty to the callicoes of this kingdom is owing the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of that branch of trade: and let the cotton manufacture arrive in this country at whatever extent it may, its proſperity muſt be primarily attributed to his ſagacity and attention—whilſt the regulations which he has introduced into the corn trade are of the moſt advantageous tendency, ſalutary to the people, profitable to the merchant, and placing this nation in that reſpect on a perfect equality with England, promiſing in time to render it in

ſome

ſome meaſure the granary of Europe. For ſeveral years not only the ſupporter, and indeed the ableſt ſupporter of adminiſtration, but the conductor and manager of their ſchemes and operations, his public conduct in other reſpects requires no comment. Had it been as beneficial to the community as advantageous to himſelf, the gratitude of the people would have been ſtill more unbounded than the munificence of the crown. How much of that flattering reward he poſſeſſes, it is needleſs to remark.

Right Hon. HERCULES LANGFORD ROWLEY.

THE aged ſenator, grown grey in the ſervice of the community, and conſcious of having diſcharged his truſt with integrity and ſpirit, is an object of reſpect and reverence, amiable in years and venerable in decline. He wants not the gaudy ſplendour of glittering talents to procure him attention and regard; for the ſolid worth of a well ſpent life ſecures them firmly. The ſimple avowal of his ſentiments is admitted in the place of argument, and the declaration of his opinion determines on each ſubject of debate the preponderance of demonſtration. Elevated above the ſphere of vulgar prejudices

judices and turbulent paſſions he interferes but to decide; and neither the ſaucy flippancy of aſſuming youth, nor the bronzed confidence of profligate proſtitution, dare to liſt their abaſhed fronts againſt the terror of his frown. Such and ſo dignified being his character, it is no ſmall credit to Mr. Rowley, the incorruptible repreſentative of the county of Meath, that all with one voice will appropriate it to him; and the adaptation muſt be allowed to be peculiarly happy. The general judgment is ſeldom erroneous, for it is commonly founded on ſtriking and obvious facts, not on hypothetical or precarious ſuppoſitions; and though we have no particular cauſe to ſwell the note of tributary panegyric, yet as the critic whether of writing or of life ſhould be, according to the juſt delineation of the poet,

" Still pleas'd to praiſe, tho' not afraid to blame,"

to depreciate the eſtimation of the valuable old-man, would be as unjuſt as ungenerous.

With ſtrictneſs of ſcrutiny to analyze Mr. Rowley as a popular orator, would be a ſtrong proof of want of candour, as it is a character to which even in his earlieſt days, we believe, he aſpired not; and, let the ardour of youth have entertained what warm thoughts it may, for a long courſe of years he certainly has aimed

ed not at more than expreſſing with openneſs and energy the fixed opinions of his mind. His language, unadorned by any curious ſelection or accurate poliſh, is plain, ſtrong, and clear, with, perhaps, ſome ſhare of ruſtic inelegance, and without the leaſt attempt at any ſpecies of elevation: whilſt his delivery, free from each faulty exceſs, is ſufficiently juſt, and his diſtinctneſs of articulation is, at his period of life, uncommon and pleaſing.

His manner is warm and ſpirited, and even vehement, much more nearly approaching the impetuoſity of youthful fervour, than the deliberate ſedateneſs of cooler years. In argument he neither dilates nor condenſes his thoughts; but expreſſes them ſimply and forcibly, without any art of involution, or any endeavour to perplex, but with an obvious wiſh to be underſtood exactly: and from clearneſs of intellect more than attentive care, his arrangement injures not his conceptions. His matter, the produce of extenſive information, long thought, and old experience, is entitled to, and receives reverent regard: it is not glaring or oſtentatious, but ſolid, weighty, and well choſen. In his parliamentary conduct he has, almoſt invariably ſupported thoſe meaſures which have been ſtamped with the public approbation: and particularly in the diſcuſſion of the odious attachments, and

of

of Mr. Orde's *bleſſed* commercial ſyſtem, he boldly and manfully avowed and ſupported his ſentiments (which indeed were the ſentiments of truth, of juſtice, and of equity,) againſt the brow-beating of lawyers, and the treacherous ſophiſtry of deſigning miniſters.

GORGES LOWTHER, Eſq.

THE honeſt country gentleman, independent in principle and practice, whom a general opinion of his integrity, and not the power of party or the influence of connections, has raiſed to the diſtinction of a county member, is a character of worth and reſpectability, however unadorned he may be with ſplendid talents and brilliant accompliſhments. Their preſence, 'tis true, would enhance, but do not conſtitute, his merit: their poſſeſſion would give a luſtre to the diamond, but certainly do not aſcertain its value. That depends on its inherent qualities, not on its adventitious aids. But this character, eminent as it is, muſt be cautiouſly guarded againſt every ſhadow of ſuſpicion or ſurmiſe of tergiverſation, as indeciſion would injure and duplicity deſtroy its only excellence; leaving perhaps ſome ground whereon to fabricate an apology, but no firm foundation on which

which to raiſe a defence: and we all know that the black ſpots of the ermine are only the more conſpicuous for the whiteneſs of its fur.

Court intereſt obtained by timely abſences, or court patronage procured by convenient compliances, but ill accord with the open honeſty of the country gentleman, or the generous ſpirit of the independent repreſentative. Mr. Lowther, who (we believe) is the father of the Houſe of Commons, has for a long ſeries of years repreſented in parliament one of the firſt counties in the kingdom, and tho' by no means the firſt, or in the firſt claſs, in point of property there, he has conſtantly experienced the warm and effectual ſupport of a majority of the electors. It would be injurious to him but to ſuppoſe that he has not in every inſtance repaid their confidence in the only manner they could expect, by undeviating rectitude and unſuſpected fairneſs of conduct.

To enter into a ſcrutiny of Mr. Lowther's qualifications as a public ſpeaker would be nugatory and abſurd, as the utmoſt of his pretenſions in that capacity amounts only to uttering on certain occaſions a few ſentences, neither very diſtinctly audible nor very clearly expreſſed; and his voice is much better adapted to the ſports of the field, or the riots of a cock-pit, than to oratorical exhibitions or diſplays of elo-

quence.

quence. His ſtyle, nerveleſs and groveling, is ſometimes deficient in purity, and often in correctneſs; it is not meant to ornament, and it but poorly clothes his thoughts: but his manner is pleaſing, and would much befriend an abler ſpeaker. It is warm without vehemence, and animated without impetuoſity; with an apparent air of frankneſs and candour that are very impoſing where no artifice can be ſuſpected, and where no maſk is aſſumed.

His arguments are the eaſy deductions of plain common ſenſe, not the elaborate concluſions of ſtudy or meditation: rather diffuſe than cloſe, rather deſultory than connected, they more frequently ſtrike by their obviouſneſs of remark than command attention by novelty of conception, or preciſion of arrangement. Of his matter it may ſeem ſuperfluous to ſpeak: for as he diſturbs not his head with deep enquiries or profound diſquiſitions, he acquieſces in his firſt thoughts, which he delivers as they occur, without an accurate examination of their weight: if they are forcible, it is more owing to native ſtrength of mind than to attentive reſearch; if weak, he has the ſatisfaction of knowing that they are not tediouſly accumulated. In parliament Mr. Lowther has genarally voted with thoſe who labour to reſtrain the exorbitance of power, and to ſecure the liberty

of

of the people: but ſometimes, it may be from a too anxious deſire of providing for his county Meath friends by the miniſter's aid, he has adopted a conduct more ſuited to the eaſy complaiſance of the indulgent courtier than to the reſolute determination of the ſtubborn patriot.

JAMES STEWART, Eſq.

SPLENDID abilities and oratorical talents, however deſirable in the repreſentative of a great county, are not the only, nor indeed the principal qualities that recommend him to the people's unbiaſſed choice. Acknowledged integrity, unſullied reputation, and independent ſpirit, with an amiable and gracious deportment in private life, have, and juſtly have, the greateſt ſway in their determination. To a character diſtinguiſhed by theſe their attachment is rational and well founded; for, though it may cauſe them to ſend into the Senate not the moſt eloquent defender of their rights, there hourly to be aſſailed by the ſeducing temptations of office and emolument, which all have not the ſtubborn virtue conſtantly to reſiſt, yet it ſecures to the community the exertions of an honeſt member of the legiſlature, true to his delegated truſt, ſtudious of the public weal, and immovably

bly addicted to ſupport the cauſe of Liberty and Juſtice. Mr. Stewart has long repreſented one of the largeſt counties in the Northern Province, where the electors are numerous, and in the diſcharge of their duty not very eaſily intimidated by the threats of power nor deceived by the blandiſhments of ſeduction; and the regard which they early manifeſted for his opening worth has been matured by time. and ſtrengthened by their experience of his ſpirited, yet temperate conduct, of his determined yet prudent reſolution.

Mr. Stewart aims not the character of an eloquent ſpeaker, but when more momentous concerns engage the attention of the houſe, he occaſionally expreſſes his ſentiments of their ſcope and tendency. His voice is ſtrong, clear, and diſtinct, with a ſufficient inflection of tones, but without much melody or ſoftneſs; and is more ſuited to the dignity of command than to the ſoothing accents of ſupplication: and his management of it, which is obviouſly artleſs, is in general judicious; guarding it from all harſhneſs, and preſerving it from all exceſſes, but ſometimes from too great diffidence, depreſſing it needleſsly, and ſo injuring its natural power. His language is plain and unadorned, neither glowing with brilliant phraſes, nor heightened by picturesque imagery; but pure

with

with eaſe, and nervous with ſimplicity, preciſely conveying without much illuſtrating his thoughts: and his delivery is ſlow, meaſured, and rather ſolemn, never in his utmoſt ardour approaching to rapidity, but tho' free from langour always retaining a certain ſtatelineſs of ſtile that ſeems congenial to it.

His manner is cold, ſtiff, and formal, totally deſtitute of that agreeable frankneſs that might be expected from a man of liberal education and poliſhed intercourſe, who had ſpent his youth in the army; and certainly very diſſonant from the warmth of his ſentiments and the energy of his conceptions, quenching their fire and enfeebling their force. His action, which indeed he very ſparingly uſes, has at times both ſtrength and expreſſion, but a want of freedom conſtantly pervades it, and at the beſt we can only ſay, it is not ungraceful. In reaſoning he is cloſe, conciſe, and exact, never deſerting the queſtion to ſeek for amuſive incidents, nor prolonging his ſpeeches by any unneceſſary expanſion of thought or dilation of argument; and his arrangement is perfectly juſt and regular; for he has not forgotten thoſe rules of method which his Collegiate education impreſſed on his youthful mind. Poſſeſſed of a ſound maſculine underſtanding, which was early improved by careful culture, his matter is ever

ſolid,

ſolid, appoſite, and intereſting; not oſtentatiouſly produced to invite admiration or excite applauſe, but candidly offered, without ſophiſtry or ſubterfuge, to the conſideration of the unprejudiced and the judgment of the wiſe; and always invigorated by an animating ſpirit of conſtitutional freedom. In parliament, Mr. Stewart has invariably ſupported thoſe meaſures that the people have deemed ſalutary to their welfare, and with decided reſolution has vigorouſly oppoſed every intrenchment attempted to be made by force or fraud on the legal or commercial rights of his fellow-citizens.

Right Hon. Lieut. Gen. ROBERT CUNINGHAME.

HIGH military rank and exalted ſtation in the army ought naturally to be the rewards of eminent ſervices in the field, and of dangers encountered in the defence of the ſtate. In ſuch caſes they are reflected on with complacency and remembered with exultation; as reviving the recollection of meritorious deeds, that render the individual not leſs venerable in the public eſtimation, than diſtinguiſhed by the favour of the Sovereign. But it ſometimes happens that high rank, ſtation, and emolument in the

the army are obtained merely by court attendance and powerful patronage, without any claim to the gratitude of the nation for benefits conferred, or any pretence for receiving them as the recompenſe of martial deſert. Then, when their poſſeſſor is wiſe, he plumes not himſelf on his military character, but ſeeks a ſubſtantial foundation for the regard of the people, by peaceful exertions conducive to their welfare; and, perhaps reclined under ſhades of his own raiſing, calls for their reſpect and their thanks by his improvement of the country, and his melioration of the ſoil: a merit undoubtedly great, and juſtly entitled to eſteem and reverence. To this merit few men in Ireland have more ample claims than General Cuninghame, who for a number of years has applied himſelf to agricultural labours with ſpirit and perſeverance, and has not a little adorned the face of the diſtrict where he reſides both by his buildings and his plantations.

As a public ſpeaker his voice is clear, articulate, and well toned, with ſufficient compaſs pleaſingly harmonious, nor ever in any of its variations offenſive: and his management of it is commonly judicious, guarding it from each vicious exceſs, and modulating it with ſkill. His language, lively, forcible and nervous, is more correct than pure, for in it barbariſms are to be re-

remarked; and, tho' it aims not at elevation by pomp of phraſe or ſplendour of diction, it rejects not the aid of ornament, but is ſometimes graced with modeſt figures and ſometimes with juſt metaphors: but is, indeed, much injured by a ſtrong Scots accent, a defect from which few natives of Scotland are ever able to get free. His delivery, without being rapid, is animated; it is forcible not precipitate, and even when cooleſt not dull. His manner is warm and ſpirited, poſſeſſing much ardour wi h ſome energy; but is greatly hurt by a too great want of deference for his audience, and by a too apparent confidence either in his cauſe or his ſupport. With a full portion of the overbearing ſtyle of the camp it wants the poliſhed grace of the officer, which in him is extraordinary, as he has been nurtured in courts: and this ſurely ſhould be altered.

His action is but ill ſuited to recommend or enforce his ſentiments, as it is inexpreſſive, and deficient in ſtrength and elegance. In reaſoning he is ſhrewd, acute, and argumentive, ſevere on the failure of his opponents, and careful to leave no room for ſharp retorts; never from luxuriance of fancy dilating on favourite topics unconnected with his ſubject, but debating the queſtion immediately before him with cloſeneſs, accuracy, and conſiderable ability; yet neither

ignorant of, nor diſdaining to uſe, the little arts of perplexing what is clear, and confounding what is plain. His arrangement is tolerably perſpicuous, but not peculiarly marked by method and order, ſeeming more the effect of nature than the produce of ſcience, and without obſcuring not irradiating his thoughts.

The matter of his ſpeeches is in general good, neither futile nor flimſy, but ſolid and appoſite, produced without effort yet always fully digeſted; for he enjoys a ſound underſtanding, and in ſome reſpects is very well informed; but without that extent of knowledge that ſhould encourage him to dictate, or that depth of inveſtigation that ſhould incite him to dogmatize. Whilſt he is content to ſubmit his ſentiments to the judgment of the houſe he is liſtened to with attention: when he ventures authoratatively to decide he is heard with diſguſt. Raiſed by court favour to his preſent elevation, his parliamentary conduct is invariably guided by the mandates of the miniſter; other conſiderations with him have no weight.

CHAR-

CHARLES O'HARA, Eſq.

IT has been remarked by a ſagacious obſerver, perhaps with more aſperity than truth, that the parliamentary conduct of the gentlemen of the long-robe can in general be but little relied on; as their profeſſional habits of attacking or defending cauſes; not according to the evidence of their truth or falſehood, but according to the determination of a pecuniary bribe, naturally vitiates moral ſentiment, and pre-diſpoſes the mind to act in the national council with wanton violence when in oppoſition, and with unqualified ſervility when in employment. Without admitting the remark in its utmoſt latitude, tho' it ſeems ſtrongly corroborated by many examples, it muſt be allowed that a moderate conduct, firm, conſiſtent, and dignified, wherein are never heard growlings for office or clamours for hire, is not readily to be met with among the lawyers in the Houſe of Commons. It is therefore highly honourable to Mr. O'Hara, whom a county elected its repreſentative from confidence in his worth, that his parliamentary deportment is conſpicuouſly diſtinguiſhed by thoſe rare qualities; which whilſt they evince the propriety of his electors choice bear convincing teſtimony to

the goodneſs of his head and the honeſty of his heart.

His voice is but ill ſuited to a popular aſſembly, as it is thin and weak; tho' not deſtitute of a variety of tones yet wanting harmony, and neither capable of commanding by its power nor of captivating by its ſweetneſs. Of this indeed he ſeems conſcious, and therefore has applied himſelf with diligence and ſkill to manage it ſo as to aid its feebleneſs and to correct its harſhneſs; guarding it with care from too high or too low a pitch, and always preſerving that middle key which, with his diſtinct quality of articulation, gives it every aid that art can afford.

His language, not formed to animate or elevate by a rapid flood of glowing terms, is plain, perſpicuous, and ſometimes forcible; juſtly expreſſing but ſeldom adorning his conceptions: not that the aid of ornament is invariably rejected, or that he inviolably abſtains from all figurative diction, but it is uſed ſparingly, and cautiouſly, and with obvious timidity, leſt it ſhould diſcolour the uſual current of his diſcourſe. His delivery, far from aſſiſting, injures his language, for it is cold, languid, and nerveleſs; often drawling, and often heavy, it oppreſſes the ear with a leaden weight which no elegance of ſtyle or livelineſs of fancy could enable it to endure,

but

but which, where they are not eminently diſplayed, is completely offenſive.

His manner is cold, diſtant, and reſerved, not adapted to conciliate or framed to impoſe; marked by much deference and reſpect for the Houſe, but at times ſpirited, and that ſpirit from the contraſt the more ſtriking: and his action, which has more freedom and eaſe than moſt of his profeſſion, is occaſionally expreſſive and ſtrong, and often not ungraceful. In argument he is cloſe, exact, and accurate, never wantoning in needleſs excurſions nor being led aſtray from the queſtion by the meteors of imagination, but examining it with preciſion, and debating it with ability: ſometimes, perhaps, a little too fond of legal diſtinctions and legal ſubtilties, but moſtly fair, candid, and ingenuous.

His arrangement is of much uſe to him, as it is clear, regular, and methodical, digeſted with judgment, and poſſeſſing without any ſcientific parade the merit of ſcientific order. The matter of his ſpeeches is deſerving of praiſe, as it is ſtrong, ſolid, and weighty, ſought with aſſiduity, ſelected with ſkill, and applied with propriety. From its juſtneſs ſecuring aſſent, and from its force commanding conviction, it materially ſerves the cauſe which he eſpouſes: and tho' it may be diſregarded by hardened dullneſs, for on ſome heads " th' impaſſive light'nings " play;" and though it may be deſpiſed by obſtinate

ſtinate prejudice, for on it all evidence is loſt, yet wiſdom and honeſty receive it with reſpect, and acknowledge its power.

GODFREY GREENE, Eſq.

THE various means by which men, not poſſeſſed of the firſt rate talents or moſt powerful intereſt, puſh themſelves into places of truſt and emolument, are curious ſubjects of ſpeculation to the moral obſerver.—Whilſt the inſidious pretender to patriotiſm winds his way to office by vociferous oppoſition to the miniſter, and by invariably thwarting his ſchemes be the ſalutary or pernicious, the brawling bully of adminiſtration "who knows no omen but his *patron*'s "cauſe," claims preſent pay and ſtation to remunerate the ardour of his zeal and the promptneſs of his ſervices. And even the tongue-tied mutes of parliament, who can neither teize a ſecretary with their prattling, nor utter a ſentence in his ſupport, ſometimes attain theſe objects of their anxious wiſhes either by borough ſervices to nobles, labouring to encreaſe their conſequence by an intereſt among the Commons, or by becoming the land brokers of thoſe who are more ſolicitous for property than power. However various their means, the end is the ſame, not the

ſervice

ſervice of the ſtate but the exaltation of the individual: an exaltation that often renders meanneſs but more conſpicuous, and ignorance but more notorious.

Mr. Greene has certainly ſtrong demands on the gratitude of adminiſtration, for from his firſt entry of the Houſe of Commons he has been their loud, ready, and determined defender; unabaſhed by the formidable hoſt which he had to encounter, and unreſtrained by the ſlighteſt diffidence of his abilities for the conteſt. As he entertains no ſmall opinion of the merit of his labours he has not ſuffered them to paſs unrewarded through any fooliſh modeſty of application; but enjoying a conſiderable employment, he ſtill looks up to a greater, and in its acquiſition his perſevering induſtry may poſſibly prove ſucceſsful.

Conſidering him in the character of a public ſpeaker, his voice is ſtrong, full, and ſonorous, fully commanding the whole extent of the houſe, and its ſound at leaſt always audible: but it is very indiſtinct, and tho' free from any grating harſhneſs is deficient in harmony, and ſtill more in ſweetneſs. To the management of it he appears to pay little, if any, attention, notwithſtanding a judicious management might obviouſly remedy ſome of its defects; for he frequently paſſes with a moſt eccentric quickneſs of tranſition from its loweſt to its higheſt pitch, ſeemingly

ingly as regardleſs of the ears of his auditors as of his own lungs. His language, neither ſeduloufly ſelected nor curiouſly choſen, is plain, manly, and expreſſive; more correct than pure, for it is tainted with colloquial barbariſms, and without aiming at ornament nor entirely deſtitute of neatneſs; but clearly more adapted to the common buſineſs of life than to the effuſions of eloquence. It is indeed much injured by his delivery, which is thick, rapid, and embarraſſed, deſtroying every idea of propriety of emphaſis or pronunciation, and often rendering him totaly unintelligible.

His manner is more than ſpirited, it is vehement and impetuous, with a degree of violence, that, though commonly deemed the undoubted mark of ſincerity, is ſometimes the maſk of hypocriſy: it may pleaſe his friends, but aſſuredly has too much bluſter to affect his opponents. His action is ungraceful and even awkward, but not devoid of ſtrength, and he deſtroys the advantage of a naturally good perſon by a lounging ſtoop that confines his attitudes, and much diſfigures him. In reaſoning, when ardour clouds not his intellects, he is forcible, acute, and pointed; rather condenſing than dilating his thoughts, and never by unneceſſary expanſion enfeebling his ſentiments; whilſt with the intricate mazes of

ſophiſtry

ſophiſtry, he is well acquainted, and never avoids them if they but ſeem adapted to facilitate his progreſs.

His arrangement, without the cleareſt luminous order, is tolerably regular and ſufficiently methodical; if it does not place his arguments in the faireſt light, it is alike free from obſcuring their evidence. Mr. Greene's ſtock of legal knowledge, for he is a lawyer, is perhaps not very extenſive; but as he received a claſſical and collegiate education his mind is furniſhed with ſtores of knowledge, that render the matter of his ſpeeches far from contemptible. We cannot aſſert it to be deep, or profound, or irrefragable, for he delights not in intricate reſearches or difficult diſquiſitions; but it is never flimſy or worthleſs, and merits the honour of a confutation even when it moſt fails to convince the judgment. His parliamentary conduct has been already alluded to; if it wanted any further illuſtration, that is eaſily given. True as the needle to the pole, the miniſter for the time being directs its every variation.

MARCUS BERESFORD, Eſq.

THE neceſſity of curbing the loquacity of preſuming youth, and of reſtraining the ſelf-ſufficient arrogance of babbling pertneſs, has

has been felt ſo forcibly that ſome of the moſt celebrated legiſlative aſſemblies of antiquity allowed not any of their members to ſpeak, till that period of life when it might be reaſonably expected that theſe faulty excreſcences of the mind would be either lopped off by experience of their hurtful nature, or eradicated by the maturity of judgment. The inveſtigation of truth or the elucidation of error they did not conceive likely to be promoted by petulance puffed up with ſtation, or overweening confidence heightened by the ſervile flattery of dependents. Modeſty, deference, and ſubmiſſive regard to the dictates of hoary wiſdom were deemed the qualities moſt conſonant to and moſt becoming in the young; whilſt their oppoſites both expoſed to contempt and ſubjected to hatred. Unacquainted with the modern practice of forcing frames the ancients looked only for the conſtant productions of nature; and if at any time the mature juices and rich fruits of autumn appeared inſtead of the bloſſoms and flowerets of ſpring, they regarded them as prodigies to be admired, not as regular grants to be expected.

The modern world has in theſe reſpects widely deviated from the ſober maxims of antiquity, and ſome living inſtances of juvenile excellence and premature genius ſeem ſtrongly to corroborate the juſtneſs of its deciſions: but

Foxes

Foxes and Pitts are not every day born, and from the juſt opinion we entertain of Mr. Bereſford's well-known *diffidence*, we do not conceive that he thinks himſelf YET perfectly equal to either of thoſe gentlemen. Yet this young orator's firſt parliamentary exhibition, when juſt burſting from the embryo ſhell, was a pointed attack on the moſt conſpicuous member of the Houſe of Commons; on a man whoſe voice rolls the thunder, and whoſe tongue carries the conviction, of a Demoſthenes. Undoubtedly he "reached *not* perfection in his firſt eſſay," but ſo daring having been his outſet in the political field his ſucceeding campaigns have been diſtinguiſhed by ſimilar deeds of hardihood; and have been alike marked by a full confidence in his own ſuperior powers, and a ſupercilious diſregard of the eloquent, the dignified, and the venerable.

As a public ſpeaker his voice is clear, articulate, and audible, not without ſome variety and inflection of tones, in which a degree of harmony and ſweetneſs may occaſionally be obſerved: but moſtly too ſharp and ſhrill, and oft-times diſgraced by a childiſh, whining, ſing-ſong declamation reprehenſible in a boy, but diſguſting in a man. He manages it in general with propriety, never ſave in the tempeſt of his party paroxyſms raiſing it beyond its natural key, or at any time abſurdly depreſſing it beneath its pitch.

pitch. His language is plain, level, and ſimple, copiouſly flowing without let or hindrance, but neither eminent for correctneſs nor purity: abſolutely unadorned it never wantons in the flowery periods of imagination, nor elevates the ſoul with the ſublime diction of oratorical genius. It may convey reaſoning, but will never impel the paſſions to move obedient to its controul. His delivery needs much correction, as being now cauſeleſsly rapid, and anon drawlingly languid, adhering to no fixed principle but ſpatiating at random: whilſt his articulation is far from perfect, and his neglect of emphaſis culpable. His manner is not warm, or ſpirited, or vehement, or impetuous, but it is inſolent, and aſſuming, and offenſive; equally diſtant from the conciliating graciouſneſs of ingenuous youth and the commanding dignity of maturer years. It ſeems formed to excite offence by a ſtudied arrogance of character, for which abilities, even if they were poſſeſſed, would but poorly compenſate.

Sometimes aiming at grace in his action the attempt is but ſeldom ſucceſsful, as he has an awkward mode of carrying his perſon and forming his attitudes that ſtrongly counteracts his endeavours: and as to energy and force they come not within the ſcope of his deſign. In argument he is diffuſe and comprehenſive, dilating every

every reaſon and ſwelling every ſentiment much beyond its juſt extent, labouring to give his tinſel all the expanſion of gold: not often accurate and at times ſophiſtical; but in general adhering cloſely to the queſtion without any digreſſive flights that might be ſuppoſed to ſpring from ſome ſparks of fancy. His arrangement if it were regular might be clear, if it were methodical might be luminous; but as it is completely bereft of theſe qualities ſcarcely darkneſs viſible pervades it. As he was for ſome ſhort time in the Univerſity of Dublin he certainly muſt once have known the rules of Logic; but theſe, it may be, he diſdains to uſe, leaving ſuch mechanical drudgery to inferior ſpirits, whilſt he is reſolved

"To catch a grace beyond the reach of Art."

In the matter of his ſpeeches it would, perhaps, be unreaſonable to expect depth, ſolidity, and extent of information: yet information may be procured by ſtudy, and depth and ſolidity of obſervation are the natural products of a vigorous intellect. But when a mind is deficient in its ſtores of ancient and modern knowledge, its poſſeſſor may retail common-place remarks and vague opinions gleaned up in converſation, but will never convince the underſtandings or ſatisfy the judgments of the wiſe, without a pro-

profoundneſs of inveſtigation and a ſtrictneſs of reſearch that muſt be peculiarly hateful to the faſtidious delicacy of fine gentlemen. From Mr. Beresford's connections, not leſs than from his official ſituation, he is a warm and willing advocate for every meaſure of every miniſter: *his* approbation is to the young taſter of wines and council to the Police, the ſtandard of propriety and the rule of rectitude.

Right Hon. Sir HENRY CAVENDISH, Bart.

A material difference prevails between popularity with the people, and popularity in the houſe of commons. The former is generally acquired by the performance of public ſervices or the diſplay of a patriotic ſpirit; whilſt the latter is commonly the conſequence of pliancy of temper, and of that facility of diſpoſition that complies with every job, and cooperates in every ſcheme of private intereſt. Such *amiable* weakneſs is ſecure of finding admirers, and from what all may in time derive advantage all are prepared to applaud.—Adherence to preconceived opinions, firmneſs of character, and that ſtubbornneſs of mind, which, though

though ſometimes the attendant of muliſh ignorance, is moſtly the concomitant of ſuperior genius, totally deſtroy its power, and expoſe the individual marked by ſuch qualities to the flippancy of petulant attacks and to the rudeneſs of boiſterous aſſaults. Of theſe, Sir Henry Cavendiſh has felt the full force, but, whilſt he reſiſts the one with vigour, and treats the other with merited contempt, he cannot avoid regarding them as unfavourable ſymptoms of the affections of the houſe. That circumſtance however will, we apprehend, have little influence on his conduct, which ſeems founded on the firm baſis of rational conviction; and therefore is not liable to be changed by the veering gale of temporary convenience. He may deplore the effect, but will ſcarce be induced to remove the cauſe.

Sir Henry's voice is not much adapted to exhibitions of eloquence, as though perfectly diſtinct and articulate, it wants clearneſs, and that variety of tones neceſſary to affect the mind and rouſe the paſſions.——Without harſhneſs or diſcordance, it has no claims to harmony or melody in its modulation; it is ſtrong, but drawling, and full, but not mellow. His judgment is indeed ſhewn in the management of it, which is juſt and correct, preſerving that even tenor ſuited to the uſual current of his diſ-

courſe;

courſe; never from unguarded vehemence elevating it beyond its natural extent, nor from inattention depreſſing it too much. His language is uniformly good, plain, level, ſimple, and eaſy; correct, but ſomewhat impure, as being not completely purged from colloquial phraſes and provincial idioms. Rejecting all ornament and even elegance of ſtyle it flows ſmoothly and copiouſly, without any ſparkling glitter of figurative diction, or any lively ebullitions of metaphorical expreſſion. His delivery is temperate and ſlow, and rather phlegmatic, and is peculiarly injured by a ſing-ſong declamation learned in ſome other country, by a ſpecies of meaſured chaunt, as diſguſting as it is unnatural. His manner without being confident is determined. In general cool, and deliberate, and perhaps languid, it is only occaſionally warm and ſpirited, and that warmth and ſpirit ſoon evaporate. It wants grace to conciliate, and it has not energy to impreſs.

From action he moſtly abſtains, and if we may form an opinion from that which he ſometimes ventures to uſe, not without reaſon; as it is ſtiff, ungainly and inexpreſſive, neither inforcing his ſentiments nor adding comelineſs or dignity to his perſon. It has the confined awkwardneſs of the Bar, without the pretence of profeſſional habits for its excuſe. In reaſoning he

he is cloſe, argumentative and acute, forcibly preſſing ſome ſtrong and leading points of the ſubject he diſcuſſes, without adverting to its minuter parts; digreſſing but for a moment, and then returning to the charge with renovated ardour; yet more ſagacious in detecting the errors, and more able in combating the aſſertions of his opponents than in guarding his own opinions from all danger of confutation. A vein of dry ſarcaſtic humour often pervades his arguments, and gives them a poignancy and ſmartneſs that make themſelves felt. His reaſoning is much aſſiſted by his arrangement, which is juſt, and exact, and regular; not ſcientifical or methodical, but clear, and obviouſly more the effect of nature than of art.

Poſſeſſing a ſolid, not a ſhewy, underſtanding, and having taken pains to inform his mind by ſtudious enquiries, the matter of his ſpeeches is commonly good, pertinent, weighty and abounding in information; not indeed invariably exact, but ever with a very ſmall allowance entitled to the higheſt regard.—Being an admirable ſhorthand writer, he enjoys the accumulated knowledge of the ableſt ſpeakers in various parliaments, and independent of every other ſource he can draw from that fund largely, and always inſtructively. His parliamentary conduct generally accords with the Miniſter's ideas, but

he is by no means a ſteady partizan. He is fond of his own opinions, adheres to them in general pertinaciouſly, and reſigns them reluctantly. Theſe are at times beneficial to the country, and not always acceptable to the governing powers. With oppoſition, therefore, he then aſſociates, and is ever received with open arms without the diſgrace of being deemed a deſerter.

Hon. DENIS BROWNE.

ENDEAVOURS to excel, and to be diſtinguiſhed for perſonal merit, by thoſe born in the higher orders of life, and nurſed in the lap of affluence and ſplendor, may juſtly claim peculiar indulgence; both as being uncommon in themſelves, and of eminent uſe to excite emulation where emulation is moſt wanted. But, however juſt this may be in general, the obſervation of the rule can never apply to that daring confidence which, depending on rank, obtrudes its exhibitions without any previous pains of preparation, and demands for the ſwaggering bluſter of ſtation that attention and regard which are alone due to modeſt genius and unaffuming ability.

The influence of an early profeſſion, not very friendly to diffidence, may ſometimes be pleaded

pleaded in extenuation of the latter, but nothing, ſave an overweening opinion of ſuperior parts joined to the inſolence of new rank, can produce the former; an opinion ſeldom juſtified by the event, and which, even when moſt ſucceſsful, diſplays much more vanity than judgment. Mr. Denis Browne, who has retired from the army, the occupation of his youth, to the peaceful orders of ſociety, and who ſeems ambitious of the character of a public ſpeaker, will doubtleſs take pains to avoid defects that preclude every ſpecies of indulgence; and will not inſult the underſtandings of his audience with effuſions that offend but do not intimidate, and are not unlike thoſe of a boy never to be a man.

His voice is ſtrong, full, diſtinct, and mellow, by no means ill-toned, and though not remarkable for great harmony or melody, deep yet clear, and high without any offenſive ſhrillneſs: and his management of it, certainly neither artful nor ſcientific, is yet not injudicious; in general ſhewing all its advantages, unleſs when ſome uncommon impulſe hurries him beyond the bounds of propriety. His language, neither elegant nor animated, is little adapted to command the attention, conciliate the regards, or invigorate the minds of his hearers, as alike deficient in philoſophical clearneſs and gram-

matical preciſion it is moſtly expreſſed in a peremptory and magiſterial tone, and is abundant without ſelection, and flowing without energy. His delivery, very far from all ſleepy langour, is at times ſo rapid as to embarras his pronunciation, and frequently deſtroys all propriety of emphaſis: and his manner, totally averſe from diffidence or ſoothing addreſs, is vehement, impetuous, and overbearing; more ſuited to ſoldierly command than oratorical inſinuation, and more fitted to offend than delight. His action, entirely diveſted of grace, has not much force, for it is violent not ſpirited, he belabouring the air at a moſt unconſcionable rate.

In argument he is rather diffuſe than cloſe, and dilated than condenſed; diſplaying his ſtores with apparent complacency, and introducing epiſodical circumſtances, poſſibly in his opinion either beautiful or momentous, but aſſuredly not very illuſtrative of the queſtion: and his arrangement is not formed to reflect light on his reaſoning, for that it is not confuſed is its higheſt praiſe; to order, or ſtrictneſs, or regularity it has evidently no claims. The matter of his ſpeeches appears not to have been ſought for with ſedulity or collected with care, but ſometimes ſtriking by a pointed remark or a juſt obſervation is often enervated by feeble ſentiments, and emaſculated by incoherent opinions.

It

It is indeed advanced with peculiar courage, and without any ſhadow of timidity or fear of contradiction, and is obviouſly the unborrowed property of the ſpeaker; heavy if not ſolid, and occaſionally ſparkling if not brilliant. His parliamentary conduct is not eaſily to be deſcribed by any one ſpecific term, for it has proceeded from its very outſet undulating from the court party to oppoſition, in a courſe not unlike Hogarth's line of beauty; but although with an ample ſufficiency of windings without any marked conſiſtency or plan. What it will be hereafter no time paſt enables us to prognoſticate.

SAMUEL HAYES, of Avondale, Eſq.

THERE is a manlineſs of character in political life which operates on the mind much in the ſame manner that courage in the individual affects it: when not engaged in the ſupport of avowed villainy or acknowledged iniquity, it commands reſpect and regard, and ſhades many imperfections that without its aid would prove ſufficiently glaring. Beſtowing more than a temporary luſtre on the deeds which it dignifies, it ſheds a general radiance over the whole ſeries of actions, and gives to each of them a

ſtrength

ſtrength of impreſſion captivating to the paſſions and impoſing to the underſtanding. Though its poſſeſſor may not be peculiarly devoted to the ſervice of the community, but often ſeeks by his labours the acquiſition of private emolument and the completion of private ſchemes, he ſeeks them by open and direct roads: neither working his way through the windings of craft, nor advancing his progreſs by overleaping the obſtacles of honour.—To the bullies of adminiſtration and the brawlers of oppoſition he leaves unenvied their claims to fortune or to fame; and interfering in debate with temperate reſolution and unaſſuming conſequence, credits his cauſe by his conduct, and reverences himſelf even whilſt he is toiling in the ſervice of the miniſter. Such a character is, we confeſs, not the commoneſt in either houſe of parliament, and it is truly honourable to Mr. Hayes, that few men there are more juſtly entitled to it than him. His exertions derive from it a weight that would be ill exchanged for the glitter of frothy declamation, and an importance but badly compenſated by the bluſter of impetuous vociferation.

As a public ſpeaker, his voice is ſtrong, full, and ſonorous; rather confined in its compaſs, as not abounding in any great variety of tones, and though entirely free from all offenſive or grating

grating harſhneſs, not eminently diſtinguiſhed by harmony of modulation. It is more void of faults than replete with excellencies, and cannot be praiſed, yet ought not to be blamed. To its management he pays due attention, giving it that evenneſs of tenor that in general correſponds to his ſentiments, and preſerving it with care from each cenſurable extreme. Never raiſed beyond its proper pitch, if it is at times low, depth is one of its characteriſtics, and it is ſtill clearly audible.

His language is plain and level, but expreſſive and nervous, and more correct than pure; with ſome elegance and ſome ornament they form not its moſt prominent features, and without elevating the ſoul by ſublime imagery, or agitating the paſſions by pathetic diction, it is never languid or frigid, but ſtrikes by its ſtrength, where it fails to charm by its beauty. —His delivery ſtands much in need of correction, as it is indiſtinct and rapid to a fault; increaſing an apparently natural thickneſs of articulation, that probably might be amended, if not entirely removed. His manner is certainly pleaſing, open, free, and unreſerved, with a good deal of the honeſt candour of the country gentleman, and no ſupercilious airs of affected conſequence. With a becoming deference to the

the houſe, it has no embarraſſing timidity, and if not artleſs is well aſſumed.

To grace in action he has few pretenſions, and far from ſetting off injures a good perſon by neglect of thoſe eaſy attitudes that are almoſt natural to men in poliſhed life: but yet wants not energy and force, and impreſſes ſtrongly what he feels ſincerely. In argument he is moſtly cloſe and condenſed, compacting rather than dilating his ſentiments and reaſoning, and ſeldom deviating into extraneous circumſtances: but yet occaſionally he can be diffuſe and comprehenſive, yet theſe always more by the different conſtitution of his argument than by the introduction of foreign incidents. Fair in his deductions, and not often ſophiſtical in his inferences, he adheres tenaciouſly to the main points of the queſtion, enforcing them warmly and ſometimes ably. His arrangement is too looſe and deſultory to merit approbation, for without being confuſed it is deſtitute of regularity, and method: it has not the preciſion of ſcience, and it wants the accuracy of clear thinking.

Cultivated in underſtanding, converſant with the ſtores of antient and modern literature, and poſſeſſing ſome taſte in the polite arts, the matter of his ſpeeches is ever praiſeworthy, inſtructive, ſolid, and ſenſibly ſelected: not choſen to dazzle the imagination but to convince the judgment, and ever more

regarded

regarded as more weighed. It has a manlineſs in its ſubſtance than commands conſideration. Cloſely connected with the two pivots of adminiſtration, the Speaker and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, his parliamentary conduct is implicitly ſubſervient to the miniſter's wiſhes: but in general queſtions where theſe interpoſe not, he endeavours to be a uſeful member of the community, watchful over the trade, careful of the police, and attentive to the improvement of the kingdom-

CHARLES HENRY COOTE, Eſq.

A N amiable character in the intercourſe of private life, however praiſeworthy in the individual, or however eſtimable in ſociety but ſeldom compenſates in the public man for the want of thoſe brilliant parts and ſplendid accompliſhments whereon his fame is moſtly founded. It may tend, and that ſtrongly, to ſhade deficiencies, to conceal defects, and to ſoften the ſeverity of cenſure, but can hardly contribute to the creation of excellencies: it cannot blind the optics of truth, but it can thicken the medium through which they ſee, and ſo magnify what is ſtriking and diminiſh what is leſs viſible.

To

To tranſmute baſer metal into the ſterling ore of excellence exceeds its chymic power; and be the moment of projection ever ſo favourable, its energy muſt be loſt if more is depended on from the proceſs than it is capable of performing. A prudent man, therefore, poſſibly convinced by experience of having ſomewhat miſtaken his talents, will cautiouſly avoid their oſtentatious diſplay, and will modeſtly veil them from too curious obſervation, if they are not fitted to ſparkle in the blaze of day.

Mr. Coote, early in life, was elected a repreſentative of the Queen's county, and quickly manifeſted a laudable ambition of diſtinguiſhing himſelf among the moſt conſpicuous members of the Houſe of Commons. The idea was ſpirited, though the effort was unſucceſsful. Since that period he has carefully abſtained from all daring acts of proweſs in the parliamentary warfare, and has but ſkirmiſhed in the outſkirts without engaging in the main battle. His worthy mind, his friendly temper, and his generous heart enſure to his exertions the moſt favourable reception: and his own good ſenſe muſt forcibly impreſs the advantage of not forfeiting by temerity ſuch conciliatory aid.

Conſidered as a public ſpeaker, Mr. Coote's voice is full, deep, and mellow, but without much ſtrength or an extenſive compaſs; yet, being

being rather pleaſingly toned, it is ſeldom deficient in harmony of modulation, and never grates the ear with harſh or diſcordant ſounds. If it does not charm, it is equally free from offending. His management of it is by no means judicious, as he frequently ſinks it much beneath its natural key, increaſing conſiderably a depth of which it, perhaps, too ſtrongly participates, ſo as to become ſcarcely audible.—Though poſſeſſed of a degree of fancy and ſome poetical genius his language is cold, languid and nerveleſs—more pure in its phraſeology than correct in its idiom, it at times wants perſpicuity, and almoſt always energy. It flows not with facility, but ſeems laboured and ſtudied, yet has not the elegancies of ornament to pleaſe, nor the force of expreſſion to elevate—it creeps rather than ſoars, " and like a wounded ſnake drags its ſlow length along."

His delivery is much hurt by a thickneſs and fullneſs of articulation that crowd his words diſagreeably together: yet far from rapid it is even too ſolemn for the livelineſs of debate, and is tarniſhed by a ſong-like chaunt, a kind of meaſured cadence, learned, we believe, by imitation, in another country, but which ſhould be inſtantly abandoned, as having a wonderful tendency to diſpoſe an audience to ſleep. His manner, perfectly unaſſuming and marked by modeſt deference, wants not a ſufficiency of

ſpirit

ſpirit and warmth: they are not indeed its predominant characteriſtics, but their occaſional aſſumption renders it earneſt not violent, and fervent not impetuous. His action has not been ſtudied in the ſchool of the Graces, for ſtrength not beauty is its principal feature; and that feature is ſometimes diſtorted by a vehemence of exertion verging on extravagance.

In reaſoning he is copious and comprehenſive, not ſo much in his views of the queſtion as in the conſtruction of his argument, expanding three or four leading ideas full as far as they will bear; and appearing more anxious to impreſs by the extent of his front than to force his way by the cloſeneſs of his ranks.—The digreſſive circumſtances which he introduces, though not very cloſely connected with, are not foreign from the ſubject; they illuſtrate if they do not decide; the elucidate if they do not convince. His arrangement is free from confuſion, but not diſtinct and clear, wanting that methodical diſpoſition and ſcientific order naturally to be expected from a man of liberal education: it merely injures not, inſtead of aſſiſting his reaſoning.

A good claſſical ſcholar, and not ignorant of the polite arts or polite literature, the matter of his ſpeeches poſſeſſes real merit: it is ſenſible, important, and often inſtructive, and would always be allowed its utmoſt weight were it not for an unfor-

unfortunate mixture that now and then diſgraces it, of pompous trifles and ſolemn inanities.

With reſpect to his parliamentary conduct, he is invariable in his attachment to the miniſter, and undeviating in the ſupport of the ſchemes and meaſures of adminiſtration. The two ſheet anchors of penſion and place prevent all variation in his conduct.

GERVAIS PARKER BUSHE, Eſq.

MOST of the eminent perſons that adorn the Iriſh parliament, have marked the beginning of their public life by a vigorous oppoſition to the meaſures of the court; and have acquired diſtinction and celebrity, by fighting what are called the battles of the people. Without any imputation on their ſincerity, this conduct may be fairly attributed to the generous ardour of youth, and to that warm patriotic flame with which every worthy mind, at that period, invariably burns. Experience, indeed, at length evinces the unproductiveneſs of their labour, and the political adventurer converts into a merchantable commodity the character which he has procured, and the fame which he has earned. If on his converſion to the orthodox faith

faith of the miniſter, he totally abjures not his former creed, the apoſtate is loſt in the proſelyte, and he may perform ſervices real and eſſential to the cauſe which he has abandoned by his ſkilful addreſs, and influence with his new connexions.

Such inſtances, it muſt be confeſſed, are rare, for the generality ſeem to think that they can never fully approve their attachment to the court but by an abſolute dereliction of principle, and an unconditional ſervility of ſubmiſſion. Mr. Buſhe, who early trod with reputation the paths of oppoſition, has ſince his enrollment among the ſervants of the Crown obſerved a temperature of conduct hardly to be expected from a man of his apparent warmth of diſpoſition. If he has not been aſſiduous to bring forward popular meaſures, he has been far from laborious in the ſupport of pernicious ſchemes; if he has not been loud, as formerly, in the defence of liberty, he has not, like ſome of his ancient aſſociates, been diligent to enforce by perverted reaſoning treacherous plans of policy or deluſive phantoms of commerce. There has been a decency in his proſtitution, and a decorum in his mercenary engagements.

In his capacity of a parliamentary ſpeaker, his voice is ſtrong, diſtinct, and mellow; but when unduly raiſed, its upper tones have a ſharp ſhrill-

ſhrillneſs, ſtrikingly offenſive to the ear. Its compaſs is not very extenſive, nor its variety of notes numerous; but occaſionally diſplaying much harmony of ſound, and much melody of modulation, it ſeems leſs ſuited to the energy of command than to the accents of perſuaſion. His management of it is evidently faulty, as he at times elevates it beyond its utmoſt extent, and again depreſſes it ſo low as to be ſcarcely audible. Sol's advice to Phaeton, ſhould be here his conſtant guide.

His language is ſingularly well choſen, pure, correct, and animated; elegant without affectation, and neat without meretricious ornament: copiouſly flowing in an abundant ſtream, not ſpurting forth with intermitted ſallies. Raiſed above the vulgarities of colloquial intercourſe to the juſt dignity of debate, it aims not at ſublimity of ſtile, but takes a middle flight, below the impaſſioned orator, yet far above the dull declaimer. By his delivery it is much aſſiſted, for to that he carefully attends, and though properly varying it as the occaſion requires, he alike ſhuns rapidity and langour, and adds propriety of emphaſis to a general correctneſs of pronunciation. If it has a tendency to either extreme it is to rapidity, as being moſt conſonant to his manner, which is lively, ſpirited and forcible, perhaps vehement. Admirably formed

ed to excite attention, by its earneſtneſs it impreſſes, and by its air of ſincerity impoſes. With ſufficient deference to the houſe it wants not a becoming deciſion of character, and beſpeaks a mind reſolute but not obſtinate, confident but not preſuming.

His attempts at grace in action are by no means ſucceſsful, though that ſeems the characteriſtic by which he would wiſh it to be diſtinguiſhed; as deſtitute of that natural eaſe which is the ſoul of grace, there is a conſtraint in his motions, and a ſtiffneſs in his attitudes, that betray ſtudy, together with much of that "ſawing the air" which the poet ſo juſtly reprobates. In argument, without wandering from the queſtion into foreign ſubjects, he commonly takes a comprehenſive view of it, and dilates and expands his reaſoning to its utmoſt extent; perhaps ſometimes diminiſhing its ſolidity by the extenſion of its ſurface: but acute, exact, ſubtle, and not ignorant of the arts of debate, nor of the proper ſeaſon of advancing with ardour, or receding with caution.

His arrangement is juſt, clear, and regular, reflecting light on the whole ſeries of his thoughts, and ſtrongly illuſtrating them. Whether cauſed by unclouded apprehenſion, or adherence to ſcholaſtic rules; it has the merit without the parade, of logical preciſion. Poſſeſſed

of

of a good underſtanding carefully cultivated, and well acquainted with the ſtores of ancient and modern learning, the matter of his ſpeeches is never weak, or ſlight, or flimſy, but abounding with information, and marked with ſolid ſenſe. To the cauſe which he ſupports it lends material aid, and if not the beſt, is generally the beſt his cauſe will admit. When leaſt powerful it wants not energy, and when leaſt convincing it wants not ſhew. Enjoying a conſiderable employment under government, Mr. Buſhe is a firm adherent to the miniſter of the day: but the fervour of his attachment, though ſteady, is not blazing, and his zeal in the ſervice, though ſincere, is not furious. Others are more impetuous, he is content to be uſeful.

WARDEN FLOOD, Eſq.

THAT ſhare of reputation derived from a connection with an exalted character, though often honourable, is ſeldom laſting: it depending on ſuch a concatenation of circumſtances, and ſuch a variety of incidents as are liable to variation in every paſſing hour. It is alſo peculiarly endangered by its expoſing to a rigid examination talents, perhaps, not the moſt brilliant, and abilities not the moſt ſplendid; which hav-

ing for a time ſhone in the political hemiſphere, irradiated by the beams of a great luminary, that withdrawing its light, far from being enumerated among the planets, they ſcarcely ſerve to brighten the galaxy. To admire and reverence ſuperior merit, is not indeed the loweſt degree of praiſe, as it argues rectitude of judgment, and fairneſs of mind: to ſecond and ſupport it calls for ſtill more; and to imitate, at however humble diſtance, its noble exertions, ſecures the ſeal of public approbation to ſuch laudable efforts. Thus, whilſt down the tide of popularity a reſpected name proudly ſails, and gathers all its fame, the attendant ſkiff of its follower " purſues the triumph, and partakes the gale."

Mr. Warden Flood, from the very outſet of his parliamentary career, attached himſelf to his illuſtrious kinſman, Mr. Flood; and acquired ſome fame by labouring aſſiduouſly in the cauſe which the other invariably purſued, the dignity and proſperity of Ireland. Appointed many years ago to an office under government, he has ſince that period abſtained from all acrimonious altercations, or momentous conteſts; and has confined himſelf with inflexible perſeverance to the ſole pronunciation of thoſe two energetic monoſyllables, moſt powerful in retaining a place, aye and no.

His voice is clear, ſweet, and perfectly diſtinct,

ſtinct, though ſomewhat hurt by a ſlight tendency to a liſp; with a ſufficient, but not very extenſive compaſs, its tones are always grateful to the ear, free from all harſhneſs, diſſonance, and rudeneſs, and flowing in a dulcet ſtream of harmonious modulation. It is more adapted to perſuade and conciliate, than ſuited to command or to agitate. His management of it is ſtudiouſly directed to diſplay all its advantages, of which he ſeems not unconſcious, no warmth of feeling, or ardour of debate ever raiſing it beyond its proper pitch; and he preſerves to it at all times that medium of tenor that exactly accords with its prevailing character. His language neither eminent for neatneſs nor offenſive from vulgarity, is plain, level, and rather languid; tolerably correct and pure, but totally deſtitute of ornament and not aiming at elevation, it may inform, but will never delight or animate, and is more conſonant to the unintereſting declamation of the forenſic pleader than to the impaſſioned ſpirit of the parliamentary orator.

Though not ſuperiorly copious in a choice of words, he has a celerity in ſpeaking that impreſſes common minds with an idea of quick conception, but is merely the effect of conſtant practice and daily habit; and hence his delivery, without being rapid or precipitate, is never dull or drawling.

His manner, neither confident nor overbearing, is by no means diffident; it having an ample portion of ſelf-poſſeſſion, and that degree of modeſt aſſurance that appears to reſpect others without forgetting himſelf. His action, of which he is not ſparing, is ſtiff, awkward, and uncouth, with a large ſhare of the pedantic affectation of the bar, without that ſtrength that ſometimes, in the midſt of all its defects, accompanies it. It has not grace to pleaſe, and is deſtitute of energy to enforce.

In reaſoning his ability is far from conſpicuous, for his arguments are of too ſlight and flimſy a contexture to endure the rude blaſts of contradiction, and too expanded and dilated to reſiſt the impulſe of vigorous attacks. Not deviating from the queſtion, but ſeldom diving to its bottom, he floats and flutters about the ſurface, preſſing points that are queſtionable, if not weak, whilſt thoſe that are ſtrong are diſregarded, and thus betraying a feebleneſs of mind or a want of penetration; whilſt his legal diſtinctions are moſtly too acute to be ingenuous, and are not always compleatly free from the ſuſpicion of involving inſidious fallacies.

His arrangement is of that middle ſpecies that deſerves not praiſe when moſt diſtant from cenſure: it is not immethodical, irregular, or confuſed, but it has few claims to the appella-

tions

tions of accurate, preciſe, and luminous. Bred to the profeſſion of the law, in which he attained to ſome degree of diſtinction, the matter of his ſpeeches on legal and conſtitutional queſtions is not devoid of merit: but we muſt own that merit is not ſtriking, as his matter is ſolid rather than ſhewy, and weighty rather than pointed. But its prevailing defect is want of novelty; for he either acquieſces readily in his firſt thoughts without taking the trouble of any deep inveſtigation, or he takes up with ſome common place concluſions that have been a thouſand times repeated and a thouſand times neglected; which give to his harangues a trite and hackneyed air that depreciates the worth of his beſt productions. His public conduct has latterly been that of a determined adherent of the miniſter's: a place he poſſeſſes, and a place he is reſolved to poſſeſs.

SACKVILLE HAMILTON, Eſq.

MEN habituated to the official duty of the lower departments of the ſtate, and who have there acquired no ſmall ſhare of reputation by plodding aſſiduity, by attention to forms, and ſcrupulous exactneſs in all the detail of buſineſs, when introduced into more oſtenſible

ſible ſtations and raiſed to the rank of ſenators, where their eloquence has been expected to perſuade, to charm, and to exalt, have frequently diſappointed the hopes entertained of their exertions, and have done but little credit to the ſagacity of their patrons. That flippant volubility of tongue, which in private, before prejudiced hearers where no oppoſition is to be apprehended, deſcants with wondrous complacency on national concerns and the intereſts of the community, has been found totally to deſert its poſſeſſor in the Houſe of Commons, where implicit auditors are not always to be met with, leaving him an object, if not of contemptuous ridicule, of pitiable abaſement. Indeed a prudent man who is not led aſtray by the phantom of falſe ambition will, before his entrance on the arduous office of a parliamentary ſpeaker, again and again revolve Horace's advice to the dramatic poet, maturely conſidering to what his abilities are equal and what they are incapable of performing; for thus only if he attains not fame will he be ſecure of avoiding diſgrace.

He will not to pleaſe his protectors, ruſh headlong into the battle abſolutely unprepared for the conteſt, nor dream of intimidating able and determined foes, by mere weapons of parade, and the glitter of ornamental armour;

nor

nor will he miſtake vague aſſertion for argument, nor think of baniſhing all ſuſpicion of the moſt baleful meaſures of adminiſtration, by chaunting forth the praiſes of the undoubted virtues of the ſovereign. That Mr. Hamilton, though certainly a ſenſible man, has not been diſtinguiſhed by this ſpecies of prudence, is well known; and the conſequent ſucceſs of his endeavours will ſcarcely ſeduce many to imitate him. They would with difficulty emulate his diligence and induſtry; but they might with eaſe avoid thoſe errors whereby his oratorical fame was deſtroyed.

Of a man who never ſpoke but twice in parliament, it is not eaſy to delineate the portrait: the outline can hardly be correct, and the colouring muſt neceſſarily be imperfect. We give it however, as a ſketch for the curious, not a ſtudy for the connoiſſeur. His voice is ſtrong, clear, diſtinct, and perfectly well toned, with a ſufficiency of compaſs, and by no means deficient in harmony; but more ſuited to the gentle language of perſuaſion than to that elevated ſtyle that animates and agitates the human breaſt. He manages it with judgment, reſtraining it in general within proper bounds; but guarding it more cautiouſly againſt ſinking too low than riſing too high. His language is plain, ſmooth and terſe, neither eminent for

ele-

elegance nor deſtitute of neatneſs; without any intermixture of ornamented or figurative diction, copiouſly flowing in proper, though not very energetic terms, and obviouſly the current coin of a man of buſineſs rather than the rich ſtores of an eloquent ſpeaker. His delivery needs much correction, as it is quick and precipitate, hurrying his words into a complicated maſs, that but barely eſcapes confuſion, and completely depriving them of the benefit of emphaſis, and the advantage of juſt pronunciation.

His manner is warm and ſpirited, neither depreſſed by diffidence, nor reſtrained by caution: with all the obtruſive force of a partizan, it is marked by a confident reliance on ſtrong ſupport, if not in argument at leaſt in numbers. His action entirely devoid of grace aſſuredly excels not in ſtrength, it is rather an ungainly ſwinging of his arms than a ſentimental correſpondence of the outward frame with the forcible impulſes of the ſoul. In reaſoning his merit is far from conſpicuous, as he is looſe, deſultory, and feeble; paſſing with ſome little incoherence from one argument to another, and dilating and expanding ſentiments that might deſerve a degree of praiſe were they cloſely compacted: whilſt he dwells even to ſatiety on extraneous incidents and epiſodical circum-

ſtances,

ſtances, and declaims vaguely when he ſhould debate ſtrongly.

His arrangement contributes nothing to the impreſſion of his arguments, for it is neither regular, nor methodical, nor always perſpicuous: it wants ſcientific preciſion, and has not all the clearneſs that natural order frequently poſſeſſes. Of his only two harangues the matter was not without merit; it was ſtrong, important, and inſtructive; and as he was for many years intimately converſant with the buſineſs of the revenue, and reputed extremely well acquainted with it, on all ſuch queſtions we ſuppoſe him capable of giving the Houſe much uſeful information; whilſt a careful conſiderateneſs and an induſtry highly commendable qualify him for knowledge of a loftier ſpecies. Brought into parliament by adminiſtration, and holding the office of Secretary for the civil department, his devotion to the miniſter's will can in no caſe be doubted.

Right Hon. HENRY GRATTAN, Eſq.

THE emancipators of nations and the deliverers of their native land from political thraldom, are juſtly entitled to the warmeſt retributions of gratitude which the liberality of mankind can pay; both on account of the importance

portance of the benefit and the general difficulty of its atchievment. To rouſe the languid, to inflame the cold, and to inſpire the ſpiritleſs is not the work of common talents or inferior ſouls, but of tranſcendent abilities emulous of diſtinction by deathleſs deeds, and of ſuperior genius invigorated by genuine patriotiſm.

To perceive the happy moment for rendering their exertions effectual, and to ſeize on the fortunate opportunity which the revolution of time and of accidents has produced for giving deciſive efficacy to their efforts, are inſtances of ſagacity and foreſight, of opportune reſolution and vigorous determination in the higheſt degree laudable; which may be extolled, but cannot be exaggerated. So many concurrent circumſtances are requiſite to ſhake off the yoke of long-confirmed uſurpation, to infuſe a contempt of threatened menaces without infringing fraternal affection, and to elevate a people from the meanneſs of obſequious ſervility to all the dignity of independence, that to combine theſe circumſtances, to direct their operation, and to moderate their energy are marks of ſuch merit as deſervedly claims the ampleſt and richeſt civic meed that can recompence the worthy citizen.

But as from the laurel leaf of the conqueror's crown is extracted a poiſon deſtructive of the human race, ſo ſplendid ſervices and indiſputable

ble deſerts may be converted into the means of diſturbing the public mind and embittering the public happineſs, by ſapping the firmeſt foundations of property and agitating queſtions pernicious in their origin and peſtilent in their progreſs. If to augment a flouriſhing, or revive a *fading* popularity, the prejudices of the vulgar are flattered and inflamed; if aſſertions of grievances clearly of a queſtionable nature, if not moſtly groundleſs, are advanced to the ſenate, in order to be made the groundwork of its proceedings, with all the confidence of inconteſtible evidence, and with all the pomp and parade of pathetic eloquence; and that ſource of tumult failing if they are artfully diſſeminated among the loweſt claſſes of the community, there to rankle and feſter in ulcerated hearts, we muſt reprobate in unqualified terms ſuch perverſion of principle, and ſuch miſapplication of the influence of a reverenced name, tho' the brilliancy of Ciceronian eloquence, tho' the dignity of parts, of learning, and of genius, tho' even the aſſertion of Ireland's independence were urged in their extenuation.

Mr. Grattan is certainly one of the moſt conſpicuous ornaments of the Iriſh Senate. To his manly and perſevering exertions do we owe an independent legiſlature, and the gratitude of the nation for the boon, tho' teſtified with a muni-

ficence

ficence becoming its ſpirit, by no means exceeded the meaſure of his deſerts.

Of ſome later exertions of his, to reſcue the body of the people from what he was pleaſed to chriſten Oppreſſion, we cannot ſpeak with equal praiſe; as the eagerneſs with which he ſeemed to liſten to every fabricated tale of calumny, and the malignant aſperity with which he echoed them to the Houſe of Commons, appeared to mark rather a determined enmity to the eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment of the country than an honeſt deſire of redreſſing real grievances. But as we preſume to aſcertain no man's motives, from unfeigned reſpect for an exalted character, we hope that appearances have deceived us, and that the ſource of his conduct was as pure as the ſtream of his eloquence was impetuous.

As a public ſpeaker Mr. Grattan's voice is thin, ſharp, and far from powerful; not devoid of a variety of tones, but theſe neither rich nor mellow; and tho' not harſh, its want of an harmonious modulation is often ſtriking. Unequal to impaſſioned energy it is ſhrill when it ſhould be commanding, and in its lower notes is ſometimes ſcarcely audible from its hollowneſs of ſound. His management of it is but ill adapted to remedy its natural defects or to ſupply its deficiencies, as he allows it to ſpatiate at large unreſtrained by any curb from rule; now raiſing

it

it to an elevation that it cannot bear, and then ſinking it to a depth where its diſtant murmurs can be barely gueſſed at. His language is lofty, magnificent, copious, and peculiarly his own. Not tricked out with the gaudy dreſs of poetic phraſes, nor fatiguing the attention with pompous terms, high-ſounding but unmeaning, but familiarly combining ſtrength with beauty, conciſeneſs with ornament, and ſublimity with elegance. Adapted to the exigence of the occaſion it is now a wide-ſpreading conflagration and anon a concentrated fire: now abundant and ſplendid, then brief and pointed; equally fitted to inſtruct, delight, or agitate; to ſoothe the ſoul to peace, or to awaken and arouſe all its exalted and elevated energies.

His delivery admirably accords with the ſtyle of his oratory; never languid, or inſipid, or cold, but always poſſeſſing a pleaſing warmth, expreſſive of feeling and imparting ſpirit: whilſt his pronunciation, generally correct, tho' frequently rapid is never crowded or redundant, but diſtinct and articulate, leaving ample ſpace for ſtrength and propriety of emphaſis. In his manner life, animation and ardour predominate, and that to ſuch a degree that they faſcinate the prejudiced and invigorate the torpid. From their impulſe proſtitution forgets for a moment the voice of the miniſter, and the influence of place, penſion, and peerage have

but

but an enfeebled hold on the half revived carcaſe. All are conſcious of a new-born ſpark of patriotic fire, that with the rapidity of the electric ſhock, and alas! too with its ſhort-lived duration, darts from breaſt to breaſt.

To the praiſe of grace his action has few pretenſions, as always forcible, and often expreſſive, it is ſeldom elegant: with much of that vehemence which all muſt condemn it has little of that delicacy which the judicious can admire, and when it offends not, is hardly pleaſing. With comprehenſive intelligence embracing a great object, not catching at its parts by detail, he takes in the whole at one glance, and ſees inſtantly the pivot whereon it turns with almoſt intuitive acuteneſs. In argument he is ſtrong, pointed, cloſe, and concluſive, never deviating from his ſubject, never ſtraying in ſearch of extraneous matter, but explaining with ſucceſs what he underſtands with facility. He conducts not the mind to the concluſion he aims at by a long chain of abſtruſe diſquiſition, but guides it with ſeeming eaſe through the pleaſing path of natural illuſtration. Every man thinks he could reaſon like him, but when attempted, it is found to be the bow of Ulyſſes. In the refutation of his opponents, he puts forth all his might, and accumulates his force to overwhelm and oppreſs them; but his ſuperior greatneſs is moſt apparent when

when he enforces what cannot be denied; when he defends the rights of a nation; when he pourtrays the hopes, the fears, the expectations of a magnanimous people; when he threatens the vicious and appals the proud; when he pronounces the panegyric of departed excellence: then indeed he is magnificent, ſublime, and pathetic.

In invective, a ſpecies of elocution in our opinion ill ſuited to the purpoſes of public deliberation, he has endeavoured to excel, and we think very unſucceſsfully; as his weapons though ſufficiently ſharp were totally deſtitute of poliſh, and the compoſition of his famed Philippic had much more of the broad and coarſe ribaldry of the bar than of the pointed, elegant, and witty raillery of the ſenate: whilſt his reproaches had a ſting that refuſed to be healed, which Cicero muſt have told him the orator ſhould avoid.

His fund of knowledge is great, and his diligence of acquiſition ſtill greater; hence the matter of his ſpeeches is ever of the firſt impreſſion. Early in life diſtinguiſhed as one of the beſt ſcholars in the univerſity of Dublin, which had the honour of his education, no time ſince has been loſt to increaſe his firſt acquirements, and to add to claſſic and ſcientific lore a competent ſkill in the law, a profound acquaintance with the conſtitution,

and

and a maſtery of polite literature. Thus to every ſubject of diſcuſſion he comes perfectly prepared, familiar with what it requires, and inſtantly bringing it forth as the contingence demands; inſtructing the youthful and delighting the aged with the mature fruits of a capacious mind, rich in its native produce and richer from careful cultivation.

To his parliamentary conduct we have already alluded, and it is only neceſſary to add that he took the moſt decided lead againſt Mr. Orde's noted commercial propoſitions, ſupporting with ability, unuſual even in him, the trade and the liberty of Ireland. If he was miſtaken in his opinion of the beſt ſecurity of our independence, be it recollected that every child of man is liable to miſtake: if in his preſent agitation of the great queſtion of tythes he is too ſevere and acrimonious, be it remembered that he has at leaſt the ſemblance of humanity to miſlead him: that he has raiſed againſt himſelf a ſwarm of foes in the *genus irritabile vatum* of whom though the majority can but buzz, yet ſome can ſting, and that oppoſition inflames oppoſition; and that, though his words have been cruel, his meaſures may poſſibly prove lenient. But above all let it never be forgotten either by himſelf or by others that HIS fame ſtands not in need of temporary po-

popularity who has juſtly entitled himſelf to unfading glory.

CHARLES FRANCIS SHERIDAN, Eſq.

IT has been remarked with ſurpriſe that ſome of the ableſt writers in the Engliſh language, when called on to expreſs their ſentiments in parliament, have by no means acquitted themſelves in ſuch a manner as did credit to their eſtabliſhed reputations. That they, who charmed the ear by the harmony of their periods and elevated the ſoul by the dignity of their conceptions, were in debate cold and languid, perplexed and confuſed, often to ſuch a degree as to ſit down in deſpondency and deſert the fruitleſs conteſt. Mr. Addiſon was a well-known inſtance of this, and his failure was as humiliating as unexpected: but the caſe has been pretty general from the days of the ſagacious and accompliſhed Raleigh to the time of the elaborately-ſplendid Gibbon.

Without adverting to that falſe modeſty and depreſſing timidity ſo often to be met with in ſtudious men, the cauſe of this phenomenon is not far to be ſought. For as Lord Bacon obſerves that "reading makes a full man, writing an exact man, and converſation

a ready man," thoſe who peculiarly excel in the two former are frequently by that circumſtance diſtreſſed in the latter; embarraſſed by the very redundancy of their matter, and confounded by the choice of elegancies equally preſſing for ſelection. Conſcious of their knowledge and their attainments they may advance to the combat fearleſs of the conſequences; but wiſhing to give to their harangues the point and poliſh of their laboured compoſitions and the juſt remarks of profound obſervation, they are balancing forcible terms and eſtimating cogent reaſons when the exigency of the moment demands an inſtant and copious ſupply: hence embarraſſment ariſes, and with the ingenuous ſhame follows embarraſſment; ſo that they either totally deſert the field, or each future exertion is from the remembrance of paſt miſcarriage rendered doubly difficult.

Mr. Sheridan, who has acquired the character of an hiſtorian by his judicious account of the revolution in Sweden at the commencement of the preſent king's reign, where he then was in a public capacity, is an honourable exception to this common remark; for whenever he addreſſes the Houſe of Commons, a ſpecies of diſplay of which however he ſeems not enamoured, he adds to the extent of his fame inſtead of diminiſhing its luſtre.

Mr.

Mr. Sheridans voice is ſtrong, manly, and ſonorous, diſtinctly audible at all times, but never offenſively loud; with a conſiderable variety of tones, and thoſe not unpleaſing, it wants harmony of modulation and that rich melody of ſound that delights the ear and imperceptibly attracts attention; and is more powerful than ſweet, and more commanding than captivating. He manages it with much judgment, concealing with art ſome tendency to harſhneſs to which it ſeems prone, and ſhewing its energy to be equal to the utmoſt exertions of high and ſtormy paſſion, without ever allowing it to exceed that pitch which " the ſpur of the occaſion" demands. His language is ſtrong, nervous, and expreſſive, conveying his ſentiments with force and marking them diſtinctly; whilſt each of his epithets, though but ſparingly uſed, paints its object and paints it clearly: it is correct without affectation and pure with ſimplicity, and reſembles

" No fairy field of fiction, all on flow'r",

but is the vigorous emanation of a mind poſſeſſed both of ſpirit and ſcience. His delivery is in general tolerably well moderated, but rather verging on rapidity, which had better be corrected; not for dull inſipidity or a drowſy drawl, but for lively not quick elocution.

In his manner, which is entirely devoid of daring confidence or aſſuming importance, ardour and earneſtneſs prevail, which render it ſtrikingly pleaſing; gaining a degree of regard from the houſe not oſten beſtowed, and inſpiring an animation in his auditors that is forcibly felt. Much praiſe would be due to his action were it more carefully attended to, as it has ſome grace, much ſtrength, and more expreſſion; but wants that delicate poliſh and perfect finiſhing that characterize juſt action, and which could be eaſily given to it by a man of Mr. Sheridan's acquaintance with the elegancies of life.

In argument he is ſtrong, ſubtle, and acute, inveſtigating with preciſion what he has ſtudied with diligence; diving to the bottom of his ſubject not merely ſkimming its ſurface, he anſwers objections with ability, but avoids all aſperity of recrimination, and cautiouſly ſhuns thoſe fruitleſs fopperies, the mere frippery of reaſoning, ſo frequently introduced by others to give weight to levity and conſequence to imbecillity. In recapitulation, indeed, he abounds, and that to a very faulty exceſs, as he is by no means happy in it; enfeebling and enervating what was before almoſt irrefragable, and which wanting no aid is debilitated by its needleſs auxiliaries.

His

His arrangement, though neither ſtrictly regular nor entirely exact, wants not order and clearneſs: as far from confuſion as from method it holds that middle rank which juſt conception, unaſſiſted by art, is wont to confer. The matter of his ſpeeches does him great credit, being important, inſtructive, and convincing, evidently ſought with aſſiduity, maturely weighed, and appoſitely introduced: not vague or variable, or vapid, but poſitive, congenial, and eſſential to the queſtion before the houſe, and fully equal to the expectations of the learned and judicious. His alluſions to the events of modern times and the hiſtories of the ancient world are apt and illuſtrative: but certainly require, to an auditory not as well informed as himſelf, more ample expanſion than he commonly gives them. Holding the office of ſecretary at war, and being brought into parliament by the influence of adminiſtration, he conſtantly ſupports the Lord Lieutenant's Secretary: but on the queſtion of a regency, ſhortly to be agitated, that ſupport will undoubtedly be withdrawn; as his connections, his attachments, and his principles will decidedly lead him to counteract thoſe meaſures that will be recommended and enforced by the Marquis of Buckingham on that intereſting ſubject.

Right

Right Hon. Sir JOHN PARNELL, Bart. Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE miniſter of finance is ſeldom an object of much public eſteem in any country; for tho' all willingly participate the protection of government, and the advantages which it affords, the majority ſeldom poſſeſs that generoſity of ſpirit that contributes liberally and without murmurring to its neceſſary ſupport: and hence the officer, whoſe buſineſs it is to deviſe and enforce the impoſition of taxes, is generally, however unwarrantably, expoſed to cenſure and diſlike. Peculiar circumſtances which warmly intereſt the paſſions of the people ſometimes, 'tis true, prevent the influence of this principle, and give the miniſter a degree of popularity unwonted in his ſituation, as was not long ſince the caſe in England with reſpect to Mr. Pitt: yet even he has in ſome meaſure felt its force in the arduous buſineſs of taxation, and has had reaſon to acknowledge the inſtability of the people's attachment.

It is indeed of peculiar advantage, both to the national intereſt and to the reputation of the individual, when men of independent fortunes, and of a certain ſtubborn hardihood of mind,

are

are appointed to fill the more important executive offices of government, thoſe offices eſpecially, which are looked on with a jealous eye by the people: as it is rather improbable that they will engage in ſchemes ſubverſive of the public welfare, and as they are powerfully guarded againſt thoſe imputations and ſurmiſes that fall with full force on the mere creatures of a court. Sir John Parnell muſt be allowed to ſtand in that predicament; and every fair and every flattering hope might reaſonably have been entertained from his becoming a confidential ſervant of the crown. Whether he has fulfilled thoſe hopes, if ſuch were entertained, we ſhall not determine, nor need the kingdom be informed It has, we apprehend, already decided.

Altho' not many years Chancellor of the Exchequer, he has brought forward ſome revenue meaſures of confeſſed importance; and in particular his propoſal of lowering the intereſt of money, which he urged with all the eagerneſs and zeal of determined predelection, was extenſive in its conſequences, and momentous to numbers. The Chancellor's acknowledged character of integrity oppoſes a ſtrong ſhield againſt the arrows of obloquy which that propoſal has drawn forth; but the conſciouſneſs of his own upright intentions furniſhes him, we hope, with a ſtill ſtronger.

ſtronger. Both may not be found too impenetrable for the occaſion.

As a parliamentary ſpeaker his voice but little tends to grace his oratory, as tho' ſufficiently ſtrong and loud it is neither clear, diſtinct, nor harmonious. With few varieties of tone thoſe few are deſtitute of melody, and a bluſtering burſt of noiſe, apparently as if his tongue was too large for his mouth, takes place in it of accurate articulation. His management of it, if management it can be called, is very faulty; as being ill adapted to correct its natural defects, and highly aggravating, if not creating, its leſs material deficiencies. His language ſeems ſuited to the converſation ſtyle of a man of buſineſs, not to the animated effuſions of an eloquent declaimer: plain, ſimple, tolerably pure, and not incorrect, it is level to all capacities, but elevates none, and certainly can affect but few. Devoid of ornament to captivate the imagination, it wants energy to impreſs the judgment, and rolls along the tide of debate not unembarraſſed by impediments, nor unſtopped by obſtacles. His delivery is quick, and rapid, and precipitate, often much injuring even his colloquial phraſeology; for it hurries his words into a complicated maſs, which common minds find it difficult to diſcriminate, and ſuperior genuiſes will ſeldom take the trouble to diſentangle.

His

His manner is warm, bold, and intrepid, fearleſs of oppoſition, and in a high degree daring, which though it may not ſecure regard undoubtedly forces attention; and official importance gives it a character of confidence, which, however amiable the Baronet may be in private life, aſſuredly tends not to ſoften the aſperity of opponents, nor to diminiſh the arduouſneſs of thoſe conteſts wherein he is obliged to engage. His action, all will allow, has not been ſtudied in the ſchool of Lord Cheſterfield, for it is entitled to any appellation rather than that of graceful. With ſome force and ſome expreſſion it is by no means languid; and might not miſbecome the pleader tho' it little befriends the orator: it is indeed more ſuited to the terrific menacing of brow-beating harrangues than to the Attic elegance of perſuaſive elocution: but one of its moſt prevailing modes is completely ludicrous, for when in the leaſt puzzled in debate, he is in the conſtant habit of ſtroking his cheeks, as if it were to elicit from his head ſome new ſtrains of argument, and ſome additional powers of demonſtration.

In reaſoning he is cloſe, exact, and accurate, always diſcerning the proper limit, and never ſaying more than is neceſſary, nor exhibiting any deſire of needleſsly engaging the attention of the Houſe. Anxious to elucidate the queſtion

tion he deviates not into extraneous circumſtances, but ſeizes on its ſtrong points with avidity, and debates them ſtrongly and ably. With much apparent conviction of the rectitude of his cauſe, he conſiders it in various lights, and in each it ſeems to him more clear and more captivating; but the conviction is only apparent, for he often enforces it by arguments which his good ſenſe knows to be weak, and which his ſtrength of underſtanding muſt deſpiſe. They have the ſhew which the Sophiſt deſires, but want the concluſiveneſs whereon the reaſoner relies. His arrangement is juſt, clear, and regular,; poſſeſſing all the method without the formality of art, it conſiderably aids his arguments, imparting to them a light which they ſometimes, and but ſometimes, want.

Early diſtinguiſhed in life as an excellent claſſical ſcholar, and having received the beſt education, which on him was not thrown away, the matter of his ſpeeches poſſeſſes ſterling merit. Inſtructive, ſolid, and well choſen, it commands the approbation of the judgment; and free from all feculence and froth juſtly deſerves praiſe even when its application is moſt cenſurable. High in place, and being a confidential ſervant of government, Sir John's parliamentary conduct is always ſuch as the miniſter deſires: but yet, as he is a man of high ſpirit, he requires at times

to

to be tampered with, and to have the meanneſs of ſubmiſſion varniſhed with the gloſs of deference to his opinions.

HENRY FLOOD, Eſq.

SPLENDID talents and ſuperior abilities, united with that perſevering induſtry which gives to every effort of man its laſt perfection, are the ſolid foundations of the orator's durable fame. It ſtrikes its roots deep into the ſoil, and raiſing its head aloft, bids defiance to the rage of ſtorms and the impetuoſity of tempeſts; whilſt ſpreading to a diſtance its branches, covered with the leafy honours of the grove, tho' they may be ſhaken, it remains immovable, though they may be ſtript it can not be overturned; but from its inherent vigour, renews their verdure with the returning ſeaſon, again to ornament, and again to be admired.

The applauſe of florid declaimers, and mere wordy ſpeakers, however loud for a moment, is temporary and tranſient, whilſt the praiſe is permanent of thoſe whoſe invariable ſtudy it has been to benefit the country and to improve its conſtitution; who have laboured aſſiduouſly to fix on ſteady and irrefragable principles the dignity and independence of their native land;

and

and who even in the acceptance of place and private emolument, thoſe firſt objects with meaner ſouls, have made public advantages of confeſſed importance to the nation, a prime part of their terms for the ſupport of adminiſtration. As jaundiced eyes ſtain every object with their own infection, envy may aſperſe, and malignity may traduce the faireſt reputation, deſcanting with volubility on inconſiſtency of principles and verſatility of conduct: but that is not verſatility which defends its own meaſures, nor is that inconſiſtency which enforces its own ſchemes; and the intelligent laugh to ſcorn ſuch empty phantoms of reproach. They may miſlead the weak, but make no impreſſion on the wiſe.

Mr. Flood for a long ſeries of years has been one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed characters of which Ireland, of late fertile in political genius, could boaſt; and his name, not confined within the narrow circuit of this iſle, has been ſounded by the trumpet of Fame through the wide extent of the empire, and re-echoed from the extreme boundaries of Europe to the moſt diſtant regions of the weſtern world. Ever the reſolute opponent of tyrannical plans of government, of inſufficient conſtitutional ſettlements, and of ruinous propoſitions of commerce, he has proceeded from the early dawning of his public day to its meridian brightneſs with a conſtantly increaſing

genial

genial warmth, friendly to the vegetative ſeeds of patriotiſm, and maturing the richeſt fruits of its production. When taking an active part in the adminiſtration, high dignity and lucrative office were not the ſole objects of his ambition, but a promiſe from the miniſter of an unequivocal ſupport of an ABSENTEE TAX, that grand deſideratum of every well-wiſher of this country, was made the condition of his aſſiſtance, and the price of his aid: a promiſe which nothing but his influence could have procured, and nothing but the beſotted infatuation of party and private intereſt could have rendered ineffectual. To ſerve the commonweal, he became a placeman; but when plans were purſued, in whoſe direction he ſhared not, and for which therefore he could not be reſponſible, rank or gain had no charms for him, but he deemed "the poſt of honour a private ſtation."

As a parliamentary orator, and an orator he truly is, his voice is clear and diſtinct; but thin, wanting that fullneſs and energy of ſound that ſometimes add weight even to trifles: with an extenſive compaſs and great variety of tones it is by no means remarkable for harmony of modulation, nor for thoſe ſilver notes that charm the ear, but is when deep rather hollow, and when high rather ſhrill. His management of it ſeems not to be regulated by any rule, but left to the impulſe

impulſe of the moment, his whole attention being engaged on the higher departments of his office without minutely adverting to the injunctions of rhetoricians, or the precepts of the ſchools: it is conſequently at times barely audible, but ſeldom tranſgreſſes by extravagant elevation.

His language is copious, nervous, elevated, ſublime, flowing ſpontaneouſly in the moſt appropriate expreſſions, and abounding in "words that burn" as his mind in "thoughts that breathe." Not deficient in the powers of diſplaying the more florid beauties of eloquence, but avoiding them from judgment; not ſeeking —yet not ſhunning ornament, but cautiouſly abſtaining from thoſe pompous and oſtentatious terms that have more ſound than ſenſe, and adhering ſtrictly to ſuch as are clear, pictureſque, and impreſſive, equal to the higheſt and intelligible to the meaneſt capacity: and evidently aiming more at the force, the vehemence, the impetuoſity of Demoſthenes than the diffuſion, the ſplendour, the magnificence of Cicero.

His delivery, totally free from langour or coldneſs, though not rapid, is quick and lively, admirably ſuited to the ardour of his diction, adding ſtrength to the vigorous and perſpicuity to the luminous: varying indeed as the occaſion requires, but ever pointed and ever ſtriking.

His

His manner is warm, ſpirited, and dignified, commanding reſpect and communicating univerſal animation: ſecuring the attention—it intereſts the affections, and is the obvious reſult of deep impreſſions and much ſenſibility. Hardened ſtupidity may not feel, and infantine folly may diſregard it; but its character will not be determined by the ſpur-gall'd hackneys of adminiſtration, nor by boys prematurely eſcaped from the diſcipline of the rod.

His action, in the uſe of which he is not ſparing, is often ſtrong and powerfully energetic, but never graceful; tho' not ſtiff nor aukward, being deſtitute of that delicacy of poliſh and elegance of ſtyle that obtain the approbation of the underſtanding through the medium of the fancy. It might rouſe, it might agitate a rude multitude, but will hardly pleaſe a cultivated audience. In argument he is ſuperiorly great, and in that reſpect ſurpaſſing any man we have hear'd in the ſenate houſe, being, as his ſubject demands, either cloſe, compact, and condenſed, or diffuſe, dilated, and comprehenſive; properly and pertinently enforcing the principal points of the queſtion, yet never overlooking its meaneſt or minuteſt parts: connecting what is ſeparate, contracting what is disjointed, and ſcientifically unfolding what is abſtracted or obſcure. If he ever ſeems to recede or retreat, it is not to deſert

ſert the conteſt, but to ſelect a better ground of attack. In the refutation of his opponents he exerts the full powers of his mind, expoſing their impotence to contempt, and their fallacies to ridicule; now with the ſtricteſt forms of reaſon, and anon with the chaſteſt raillery and a happy vein of irony.

In invective he peculiarly excells, giving it a poignancy and a ſeverity which the iambic meaſures of Archilocus hardly exceeded; and which the moſt converſant and moſt obſtinate in ſuch conteſts have, after months of preparation, felt to be more keen and more cutting than their ſtudied Philippics. His arrangement adds conſiderably to all he ſays, for it is clear, regular, and accurately ſcientific, gradually leading from what is eaſy to what is abſtruſe, from what is conceded to what is diſputed; forming a connected chain of argumentation, wherein not a link can be broken without diminiſhing its force, nor removed without injuring its evidence.

His matter is ever of the beſt ſpecies, ſtudiouſly ſought, carefully inveſtigated, and preciſely applied; ſolid, important, and inſtructive, and always juſt tho' frequently new, carrying conviction to all but obdurate proſtitution. Profoundly verſed in all conſtitutional and political learning, familiarly acquainted with the law, deeply ſkilled in the theory of commerce,

and

and a maſter of polite and claſſical literature, he inſtantly perceives what is wanting on every emergency, and as quickly diſcerns where it is to be found; ſo that his knowledge appears univerſal, and its application ſpontaneous. To record his parliamentary conduct would be to enumerate all the great queſtions that have been diſcuſſed for the laſt thirty years, in each of which he took the moſt decided part in favour of the rights of the People, the proſperity of Ireland, and the real honour of the Crown. His merits are known to his countrymen, and the remembrance of them is indelibly impreſſed on their grateful hearts.

Right Hon. THOMAS PELHAM.

THE ſtation of Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has been ſo often diſgraced by the appointment of the mean and the unknown, of the ignorant and incapable, of the rapacious and profligate to fill it, that it is rather a ſubject of ſurpriſe, when its poſſeſſion is the lot of a man of rank, abilities, dignified mind, and generous ſentiments. Too long conſidered as a proviſion for a needy dependant, for a favourite minion, or perhaps even for a uſeful broker, the intereſt of the nation was the

laſt matter regarded in fixing on its temporary miniſter. To the liberality of his want, to the elevated notions of his meanneſs, to the exertions of his inability it was ſacrificed without heſitation or compunction.

Yet as in Ireland this officer diſcharges an high miniſterial function, and is deemed not only the organ of his maſter's will but of the Engliſh miniſtry's determinations, the injury is obvious of ſelecting him from the contemptible or the weak. It injures the eſtimation of government, it expoſes the ſtate to peculation and profuſion, and from the cenſurable meaſures that ſuch men frequently adopt, either from ignorance or venality, tends to weaken that ardour of affection that ſhould ſtill ſtronger bind together theſe inſeparably connected Iſlands.

When a man of family and fortune poſſeſſing perſonal qualities that reflect luſtre on his birth, of high character in his own country, and of unſuſpected integrity of heart, chances to diſcharge the office the difference is ſtriking indeed. Adminiſtration is reverenced, the national funds are managed with œconomy yet without parſimony, and the meaſures which he countenances and ſupports, equally beneficial to both countries, conciliate the affections of the one whilſt they merit the approbation

of

of the other. Having no ſhattered circumſtances to recruit nor an elegant competence to ſcrape together, he hunts not for reverſions to plunder the plundered, he invents not ſchemes of ſupply productive to his private coffers, he converts not the ſecretary's chamber into a mercantile office where every thing is ſold to the higheſt bidder; but his object is honeſt fame, and his end the proſperity of the nation.

To the full credit of ſo honourable a reputation no man is more juſtly entitled than Mr. Pelham who, when Secretary to the Earl of Northington as Chief Governor of Ireland, added to the gracious deportment of a man of real faſhion that weight of conſequence which virtuous conduct invariably confers: and united in himſelf the rare aſſemblage of public confidence with miniſterial duty.

As a parliamentary ſpeaker Mr. Pelham's voice is ſtrong, full, manly, and diſtinct; without great harmony or eminent melody it is pleaſing, not captivating, and its compaſs is ſufficiently extenſive for all the purpoſes of debate: whilſt its inflexion of tones is various, and in all their gradations harſhneſs is abſent if ſweetneſs does not abound. To its management he pays due attention, keeping it within fit bounds, and never raiſing it to that pitch where diſcordance com-

commences: its natural key preſerves it always clearly audible.

His language, the clothing of vigorous thoughts and maſculine conceptions, is not proud in promiſe and poor in performance, for it is ſpirited, nervous, and expreſſive, yet ſimple, plain, and unornamented; ever correct, and pure, and neat, but ſeldom peculiarly elegant, and never melting into the pathetic, or riſing into the ſublime. From all glowing and breathing terms, from imagery and ſplendid diction he cautiouſly abſtains, not from want of fertility of imagination but from ſeverity of judgment: and tho' perhaps, he poſſeſſes not the power of exciting the utmoſt ardour of the ſoul, he yet ever impreſſes his ideas with weight and energy. His delivery, totally devoid of langour and inſipidity, is rather more rapid than might be wiſhed, flowing with a celerity that requires much quickneſs of apprehenſion to purſue; yet it ſtill retains a juſtneſs of articulation that admits of proper emphaſis and is uncommonly free from that recitative declamation ſo abſurdly aſſumed by ſome Engliſh public ſpeakers.

His manner is warm, animated and forcible; marked by a bold deciſion ariſing from the conſciouſneſs of fair intentions, and by a pleaſing candour and openneſs that abhor diſingenuity and ſubterfuge. His action, apparently artleſs and

and unſtudied, is deficient neither in grace nor ſtrength, tho' by the latter it is moſt diſtinguiſhed: it clearly ſprings from the influence of preſent feelings and the impulſe of the moment, and, like ſincerity of conduct in private life, inſtantly inſures every indulgence.

In argument he is ſtrict, accurate, and acute, enforcing with effect on the minds of his auditors that conviction of rectitude which he feels; never deſerting his ſubject or wandering into idle epiſodes, but diſcuſſing it copiouſly or minutely as the occaſion requires, and always perſpicuouſly and preciſely. At all times diſplaying the moſt perfect urbanity; he is never ſharp, or acrimonious, or inſulting even to inveterate and virulent opponents; but expoſing the fallacies of their aſſertions and the weakneſs of their deductions, leaves the taſk of recrimination to the reflections of their own minds. His reaſoning, it muſt be allowed, borrows conſiderable aid from his arrangement, which is regular, and orderly, and luminous; placing each thought in the cleareſt point of view, and where it has the greateſt effect. If not ſcientifical, it ſtands not in need of logical aid: if not artful, it inherits from nature the beſt produce of art.

The matter of his ſpeeches does credit to his induſtry without impeaching his genius;

ſought

ſought with care that care has not been fruitleſs; it is therefore important, inſtructive, and appoſite, coming home to the undebauched ſenſe of the intelligent, and ſatisfying the judgment of the wiſe. If at any time not new, it is then moſt illuſtrative from its exact appropriation: if at any time not deep, it is then moſt powerful from its inconteſtible evidence: but never weak, nor mean, nor vulgar, it is the obvious produce of a cultivated mind, and a ſuperior underſtanding. Of his parliamentary conduct here (for with Engliſh politics we interfere not) it is but neceſſary to ſay, that he had the honour of being ſupported, when Secretary, by that truly reſpectable body of men the independent country gentlemen of Ireland, who ſo ſeldom think themſelves juſtified in co-operating with adminiſtration: his candor won their confidence, his integrity ſecured their attachment; his profeſſions they knew to be the language of truth, and with admiration they beheld and revered a virtuous miniſter in the perſon of Mr. Pelham.

FINIS.

INDEX.

A. Page

ANNESLEY, Hon. Richard - 114

B.

Beresford, Right Hon. John - 8
Beresford, Marcus - - 153
Blaquiere, Right Hon. Sir John, K. B. 120
Bolton, Cornelius - - 104
Boyd, Robert - - - - 47
Brooke, Henry Vaughan - 63
Brown, Arthur - - - 31
Browne, Hon. Denis - - 162
Brownlow, Right Hon. William - 6
Burgh, Thomas, of Old Town, - 83
Burgh, Thomas, of Bert, - 85
Buſhe, Gervais Parker - - 173

C.

Cavendiſh, Right Hon. Sir Henry 158
Conolly, Right Hon. Thomas - 22
Coote, Charles Henry - - 169
Conyngham, Right Hon. William Burton 69

Conyngham,

INDEX.

	Page
Conyngham, Right Hon. Lieut. Gen. Robert	143
Corry, Iſaac	36
Curran, John Philpot	19
D.	
Daly, Right Hon. Denis	2
Delvin, Lord Viſcount	58
Doyle, Major John	49
F.	
Fitzgerald, Lord Charles	77
Fitzgibbon, Right Hon. John	14
Flood, Sir Frederick	51
Flood, Henry	203
Flood, Warden	177
Forbes, John	41
Foſter, Right Hon. John, Speaker,	129
G.	
Gardiner, Right Hon. Luke	26
Grattan, Right Hon. Henry	185
Griffith, Richard	101
Greene, Godfrey	150
H.	
Hamilton, Sackville	181
Hardy, Francis	44
Hartley, Travers	73
Hatton, Henry	67

Hayes,

INDEX.

	Page
Hayes, Samuel, of Avondale, -	165
Hewitt, Hon. Joſeph - -	35
Hobart, Robert - - -	53
Holmes, Peter - - -	98
Hutchinſon, Right Hon. John Hely	110
Hutchinſon, Sir Francis - -	117
J.	
Jephſon, Robert - - -	107
Jones, William Todd - -	56
K.	
Kearney, James - - -	71
L.	
Langriſhe, Sir Hercules - -	95
Lawleſs, Sir Nicholas - -	75
Lowther, Gorges - - -	137
M.	
Maſon, Right Hon. John Monck -	88
Molyneux, George William -	39
Montgomery, Alexander - -	59
N.	
Newenham, Sir Edward - -	93
O.	
O'Brien, Right Hon. Sir Lucius	28
Ogilvie, William - -	65

INDEX.

	Page
Ogle, Right Hon. George - -	24
O'Hara, Charles - - -	147
O'Neill, Right Hon. John - -	11
P.	
Parſons, Lawrence - -	29
Parnell, Right Hon. Sir John -	198
Pelham, Right Hon. Thomas -	209
Ponſonby, George - -	90
R.	
Roche, Sir Boyle - - -	126
Rowley, Right Hon. Hercules Langford	134
S.	
St. George, Lieut. Col. Richard -	124
Sharman, William - -	52
Sheridan, Charles Francis -	193
Smyth, Michael - - -	21
Stewart, James - - -	140
T.	
Toler, John - - -	43
W.	
Wolfe, John - - -	80
Wolfe, Arthur - - -	17